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UNESCO ENVOY ACCUSES BULGARIA ON TURKISH MINORITY

TA141550 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Sofia 14/10 (A.A.) -- Metin Emiroglu, Turkish education, youth, and sports minister, called on Bulgaria to stop unjust practises against the Turkish minority. In a speech to UNESCO's General Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, Emiroglu said Turkey is ready to discuss the issue with Bulgaria, but Sofia has refused all negotiation proposals. Emiroglu said the Muslim Turkish minority in Bulgaria is denied the right to practise Islam and the right to communicate with relatives in Turkey. While in 1950 there were 1199 Turkish schools in Bulgaria Emiroglu said, today there is not a single Turkish school left.

Addressing 200 delegates, including high level Bulgarian representatives, the Turkish minister went on, Turks are not even allowed to speak Turkish among themselves and in public places. Emiroglu said, in this way, a national minority which makes up more than 10 percent of the total population has been cut off from its cultural past.

Emiroglu reminded that UNESCO had a responsibility to keep close track of the problems of the Turkish minority and search for solutions to these problems that concern human rights in educational, scientific and cultural fields.

Reply to 'Gross Invectives'

AU141951 Sofia BTA in English 1845 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Sofia, October 14 (BTA) -- At today's plenary session of the 23rd session of UNESCO's General Conference, the leader of the Turkish delegation, Mr Metin Emiroglu, minister of national education, youth and sports, used the lofty rostrum of this forum to make a departure from the constructive spirit which has generally prevailed at the session and to level groundless and gross invectives at the Bulgarian state and its Muslim nationals.

In reply, the representative of the Bulgarian delegation, Academician Blagovest Sendov, qualified the statement of the Turkish delegate as a "gross intervention in the internal affairs of the sovereign Bulgarian state and of its citizens, as a reprehensible revival of pan-Turkish designs and ambitions, long scrapped by history."

"This elevated forum is being used for manipulations of such notions as 'a Turkish national minority', 'a Turkish Muslim minority' and other such in Bulgaria," Academician Sendov said. He emphasises that Bulgarian Muslims have nothing to do with the Turkish nation. They are descendants of Bulgarians, who have been forcibly Turkicized during the five-century Ottoman yoke.

The Bulgarian representative quoted excerpts from an article by the prominent Turkish statesman of the past Midhat Pasha, carried in the French journal LA REVUE SCIENTIFIQUE DE LA FRANCE ET DE L'ETRANGER.

This article, published in June 1878, says there were more than a million Muslims among the Bulgarians. "These Muslims have not come from Asia to settle in Bulgaria, but are descended from Bulgarians turned Turks, who were converted to Islam during the conquest and after. They are sons of that country, of the same people, they have come from the same social strata. There are some among them who speak only Bulgarian. If one were to extricate this million of inhabitants from their homes and to banish them from their country, this would amount, in my view, to the most inhuman of acts," Midhat Pasha wrote in 1878.

Academician Sendov observed that the same understanding has been manifested by Turkey at signing the 1919 Treaty of Neuilly, of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, of the 1925 Treaty of Friendship Between Bulgaria and Turkey, all documents mentioning a "Bulgarian minority" in Turkey, but a "Muslim" and not a "Turkish" minority in Bulgaria.

The instruction in Turkish which used to be provided in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian representative went on to say, is accounted for by the circumstance that this part of the population is only gradually becoming aware of the historical facts. The more than one hundred years passed since Bulgaria's liberation from Turkish yoke, and especially the voluntary resettlement to Turkey of some 1.5 million Bulgarian nationals, have objectively eliminated the need for instruction in a language which is alien to the Bulgarian nationals.

Academician Sendov described the references to the Muslim religion in the Turkish minister's statement as "pure speculation, the political motivation of which is all too thinly veiled and rests on no facts whatsoever."

He recalled that the Bulgarian muftis and imams have recently given a categorical answer to the lies on this question. The allegations about demolished mosques are refuted by hundreds of journalists, Turkish ones included, by the thousands of tourists, as well as by diplomats who have travelled all over Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian representative indicated that by raising a question artificially created by them, certain quarters in Turkey level groundless invectives against Bulgaria and try to deflect the attention of the international community from the glaring human rights violations in Turkey itself. He recalled that to this very day the Turkish Government denies the historical fact of the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians: a tragedy unparalleled in this century. For more than 100 years Turkey has been occupying a large part of the territory of independent and non-aligned Cyprus, a state member of the United Nations....

"Guided by our desire to promote the relations of friendship and goodneighborliness with the Turkish people, to make a constructive contribution to the work of UNESCO's General Conference, we reiterate our regret that we are compelled to take up the delegates' time with a reprehensible attempt by the Turkish representative to divert the conference's attention from the discussion and settlement of the highly humane problems and tasks concerning the vital interests of millions of people in the world," Academician Blagovest Sendov said in conclusion.

GDR'S STOPH, DELEGATION MAKING FRIENDSHIP VISIT

LD141529 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1451 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Sofia, 14 Oct (ADN) -- Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, arrived in Sofia this afternoon for a several-day friendship visit to the Bulgarian Peoples Republic. He is taking up the invitation of Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, who warmly welcomed his guest at the airport in Sofia.

Willi Stoph is accompanied by Dr Herbert Weiz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of science and technology; Dr Herbert Krolikowski, state secretary and first deputy minister of foreign affairs; and other personalities.

The official talks begin in the Bulgarian capital in the evening. Here, questions of the further deepening of the friendly relations and bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries and topical international problems will be discussed.

U.S. COMMITS 'ACT OF PIRACY' ON EGYPTIAN PLANE

LD120050 Prague International Service in English 1630 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Marcelo Dolickova commentary]

[Text] In the early hours of the morning the Achille Lauro affair assumed a new dimension. More in the following comment by Radio Pargue's news analyst, Marcelo Dolickova:

When the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro surrendered to the Egyptian authorities, Cairo promised to transfer them to the Palestine Liberation Organization for trial. This arrangement was welcomed also by President Reagan. However, in the early hours today, he demonstrated that his approval was just a sham. According to an official White House statement, U.S. naval aircraft, acting on direct order from President Reagan, intercepted the civilian Egyptian airplane carrying the hijackers over international waters and forced it to land at a NATO military air base in Sicily. The statement explains this exceptional move by the fact that the White House had learned the hijackers were flying to freedom. This, however, contradicts the clear-cut declaration of the PLO leadership denying whatever role in the hijacking and stating that the criminals would be brought to justice.

At last night's session of the UN Security Council the spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, Faruq Gaddumi, reiterated his organization's innocence of any role in the hijacking of the Italian ship and expressed regret over the death of an American citizen. At the same time, he drew attention to one more aspect of the problem, namely that amidst indignant statements and tears shed over the death of the American citizen, Washington has itself committed an act of piracy. On the other hand, when Israel carried out an air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis, where 165 Palestinians were killed, President Reagan declared that it had a legitimate right to do so. But in connection with the night operation by the U.S. Navy, the President said no form of terrorism would be tolerated. He is certainly right. In that case, however, neither Israeli terrorism can be tolerated nor orders to commit acts of terrorism, even when issued by the President of the United States.

Addressing an impromptu press conference last night, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger emphasized that the secret operation by a special task force was in conformity with U.S. law, which enables the President to authorize similar operations anywhere in the world. The paradox is, however, that, while condemning terrorism, the United States is trying to legitimize its own acts of terrorism.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION DISCUSSES TASKS

LD111229 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] The CPCZ Central Committee met in Prague today to discuss the contribution of its members toward the fulfillment of the tasks set at the 15th CPSU Central Committee session. The Central Committee underlined the development of the innovative and inventive activities of party members. Their contribution in the past 3 years toward social advance represented nearly Kcs 240 million. It was noted that the present working process demands a new and nontraditional approach, the art of finding the correct direction in decisionmaking and undertaking healthy risks. The session also praised the voluntary help given by party members during this year's cereal harvesting and straw gathering, and in maintaining agricultural machinery and equipment. The party Central Committee session called on local organizations to participate actively in the preparations on the new election programs of the National front.

CHNOUPEK UN SPEECH, MEETINGS REPORTED

General Assembly Speech

AU071702 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 3 Oct 85 p 6

[Speech by Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, delivered at 40th session of UN General Assembly in New York on 2 October: "We Will Continue Efforts for Peace and Cooperation" -- first paragraph is paper's introduction]

[Text] New York (CTK) -- Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, delivered the following speech yesterday during the general debate of the 40th session of the UN General Assembly in New York:

Esteemed Mr Chairman,

I congratulate you, a prominent diplomatic official of a country with which we have a mutually advantageous cooperation, on your election to the position of chairman of the 40th session of the UN General Assembly. I wish you and General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar many successes in your responsible work.

We value the energetic activity of your predecessor, Mr Paul Lusaka, representative of the Republic of Zambia, with which we are united with ties of friendship.

I would like to express our profound condolences to the people and the Government of Mexico on the recent natural catastrophe that caused such painful losses to that country which is our friend.

Mr Chairman,

In these days in which we solemnly recall the 40th anniversary of the existence of our organization, I come with a particular feeling of responsibility before its supreme body, the General Assembly, to stress as strongly as possible that today it is impossible to imagine international relations without the UN.

Born in the fire of the struggle of nations for the salvation of civilization from fascism, in which states with different social systems united, it adopted for its motto the noble words of the Charter that have become the symbol of the epoch: "To spare future generations the scourge of war."

And it was precisely that basic idea which the Czechoslovak delegate had in mind when he stressed during its inception: "Whoever speaks about the inevitability of a war in the future errs and misses the realistic and ideological [myslenkova] content of this, our mission, the greatest ever undertaken by mere mortals. Its name is United Nations."

We are proud that Czechoslovakia, loyal ally in a great alliance with the Soviet Union, who played the decisive role in the defeat of nazism, contributed its share to the great victory.

Our people, one of the first victims of Hitlerism, fought it at home and abroad with weapons in hand. Our units fought on the side of the Allies at Kharkov, Kiev, and in the Carpathian Mountains; they defended Paris and London, Tobruk and Benghasi in Africa; took part in the Normandy invasion.

The name of the Czech village of Lidice is to this day voiced in the same breath with Coventry and Oradour. In Prague, our country's capital, the fighting on the European Continent continued to the last day of the terrible war. At the same time when we eagerly hurried to take part in the historical moments of the founding of our organization, the Soviet Army was still engaged in heavy fighting with the occupiers on our territory. In the 6 years of brown darkness, from the black days of Munich until 9 May 1945, our country laid hundreds of thousands lives on the altar of a common victory.

Since then, led by the will to unshakably work in the UN ranks, true to the goals of its Charter, we have always put in the forefront the task of tasks: averting war, securing peace, strengthening international security, and achieving disarmament and development in all spheres. We have always sincerely rejoiced over all its successes; we have never had an indifferent attitude toward its failures.

Thus we have, for the first time in mankind's history, a universal world organization. In this report this year on the organization's activity, its general secretary says: "It is the best place to avert the worst and to endeavor to improve matters." In that respect it has worked well. We can say it has worked even better than we realize. Therefore, it deserves our recognition. What is important now is that it makes use of all its experience to become even more effective; that it unfolds its activity in the political and security spheres and deepens and makes more flexible broad cooperation in the economic, social, legal, cultural, and humanitarian spheres. The UN must use all untapped potential, eliminating the elements of formalism and generally strengthen its place and role in international relations. The declaration adopted at the solemn session of the Security Council is the dignified promise of that, as well as an appeal to all of us.

Mr Chairman,

Europe plays an indispensable role when it comes to asserting peace, international security, peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, and mutually advantageous cooperation. In this century alone, two terrible world wars were started here; but also the policy of detente was born here, which has sunk deep roots into the people's consciousness. This, in particular, is attested to by the recent meeting marking the 10th anniversary of the Helsinki conference. It affirmed the viability of the principles of the Final Act. It proved that the European countries unequivocally prefer to revive the policy of detente rather than to paralyse it. Attempts at that have clearly failed.

As far as we are concerned, we want to continue contributing to broadening political dialogue among states with different social systems. The dynamism of our bilateral contents is the most obvious example of that.

Now, taught by the difficulties of the adolescence of the detente policy, all participating countries should multiply their endeavor for transferring it into the military sphere. It will not be an easy task. Until now, the policy of detente has had to overcome many barriers, and in the future, too, it faces enough pitfalls and obstacles. However, in the post-Hiroshima period we cannot afford to wait to see what will happen or what could happen. The situation demands decisiveness based on mature political will. Political leaders have the duty to make decisions the nations of Europe deserve; they have the duty to show an ability worthy of historical statesmanlike judgement.

Regarding the ongoing deliberations of the Stockholm conference, signals are strengthening about the possibility of it being successfully concluded.

In our opinion, it has now reached the stage of clarifying the rough framework that will make it possible in the foreseeable future to begin talks on the final document. We are pressing for the elaboration of significant and effective military-political and military-technological measures to strengthen trust and security, including a treaty on the nonuse of military force in relations between states, whose outlines are beginning to show. In this respect we have, together with our allies, submitted a number of working documents with concretely worked out proposals. We hope that they will meet with the response they deserve.

The results of the Helsinki meeting are an encouragement for holding further meetings within the framework of the CSCE process in a similarly constructive spirit -- the cultural forum in Budapest, the seminar on interhuman contacts in Bern, and, in particular, the next follow-up meeting in Vienna in the fall of 1986.

A positive movement could certainly occur also at the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. It is only up to the Western participants to responsibily weigh the far-reaching proposals of the socialist countries.

In Vienna, too, it is necessary to give up attempts at demonizing the other side and proceed on a rational plane.

Last April, on the occasion of the extension of the Warsaw Pact, we reaffirmed our readiness to disband our alliance should the NATO bloc be willing to do the same. That still applies.

We welcome the bilateral movement in the CEMA-EEC dialogue that has been occurring of late. We expect that it will play the role of a constructive catalyst for the development of equal and mutually advantageous economic cooperation between the two largest European integration groups in the spirit of the Final Act.

Mr Chairman,

Even though it is being said that certain intimations of a thaw are beginning to show of late, the political horizon remains full of clouds and tension. Imperialist circles are to blame for that. Pursuing the chimera of military superiority, they are escalating the feverish arms buildup and are trying to expand it into space. The realization of these plans would markedly escalate the danger of nuclear war. Further huge resources would be thrown down the gullet of the feverish arms buildup, resources that are urgently needed to resolve the acute tasks of economic and social development of all states, particularly of the developing countries. When the words "nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought" are meant really seriously, then the attitude of those who have uttered them must be different.

In this situation, we regard our main task to be uniting the endeavor of all our member-countries to avert war. In the first place, this requires the unconditional prevention of transferring the arms race into outer space, halting it on earth, restricting and reducing nuclear weapons to the point of their complete scrapping.

Czechoslovakia, the third country, after the USSR and the United States, whose citizen has entered space and which actively participates in peaceful space programs, fully supports the idea of "star peace" -- as opposed to the threat of "star wars."

Let mankind begin with the magnificent project of the industrialization of the space surrounding the earth.

However, the realization of these plans worthy of the pioneering human spirit is possible only in conditions of the nonmilitarization of space. Space technology must be exclusively used to serve all mankind, and not be monopolized as a destructive force, as happened in the middle of the forties with nuclear energy.

The intention to militarize outer space could have unfathomable consequences. Today it constitutes the greatest danger to peace. The overwhelming majority of mankind sees it that way. Also the many speakers who have already spoken from this rostrum see it that way.

However, some politicians are trying to convince the public that what is involved is merely a new stage of research that, allegedly, will automatically lead to the reduction of the nuclear arms buildup and eliminate nuclear war from the life of society. Asserting something like that is at variance with reality. If the project of the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative constitutes the detonator for an even more dangerous stage of feverish armament, then one must also look at the part of it that is called scientific research. After all, what is involved are the first components of the space weapons project designed to assure an unpunished first nuclear strike. Therefore, the thesis that passes this peace-destabilizing concept off -- even on the UN forum -- as the strengthening of strategic stability, does not hold water.

No introduction of a significantly new technology into the military sphere can contribute to one's security when it creates danger for the other side. There is only one yardstick: mutual security, or mutual danger for all.

Therefore, we attach more importance to the Soviet-American talks on space and nuclear weapons in Geneva. The talks would certainly be favorably influenced by the adoption of the Soviet proposals to declare for their duration a moratorium on the development -- including scientific research work, testing, and deployment -- of offensive weapons; by freezing both sides' strategic offensive weapons; halting the deployment of American intermediate-range missiles in Europe and increasing retaliatory measures that are connected with it. Moreover, it would help the talks if the United States would join the USSR's moratorium on all nuclear explosions, proclaimed by Mikhail Gorbachev. This is really a sensible initiative, understandable to everyone by virtue of its simplicity. What is wrong with it? After all, it blazes a trail to a complete ban on nuclear tests, and thus also to halting the modernization of nuclear weapons. It is also a good model for other states that have nuclear weapons.

The reaction of the other side is, unfortunately, negative. It can be equated with a complete lack of political goodwill. It reflects the attempt to suppress the connection between nuclear tests and the program of the militarization of outer space.

What is to be said about it? The main thing is: It is necessary once and for all to abandon the murderous illusion that the development and production of destructive weapons systems will force the socialist countries to give up the necessity to prevent the disturbance of the existing approximate strategic equilibrium.

Czechoslovakia presses for a ban on all types of weapons designed to be used against objects in outer space and from outer space against earth. It demands that the exclusion of outer space from the sphere of the feverish arms buildup becomes an inviolable norm of the policy of all states and a generally recognized international pledge. Therefore we regard as constructive and very topical the Soviet proposal "on International Cooperation in a Peaceful Utilization of Space While Excluding Its Militarization," that was put on our agenda for deliberations.

We support the idea contained in it, that the UN General Assembly convenes by 1987 at the latest an international conference with the participation of all states that have significant space potential, and by other interested countries, a conference which could determine the basic directions and principles of peaceful cooperation in space. No less constructive is the proposal that this conference discuss the issue of establishing a world space organization with the aim of uniting the efforts of states in peaceful space activity. The realization of such a project would, without doubt, give mankind the feeling of so badly needed firm ground under its feet.

Mr Chairman,

We hope that, despite all obstacles, the upcoming Soviet-American meeting on the highest level will make it possible to look into the future of not only the two great countries, but also into the future of mankind. The fact is that it is possible to rectify many things when meeting halfway. But that would mean not to discuss myths and stereotypes that have already become boring, but real problems of the world community, and assess them on the basis of equality. The fact is that neither side had lost a war to the other, not even a battle, and, moreover, they do not owe one another a thing. We welcome Minister Shevardnadze's important talks in Washington, convinced that the November Geneva meeting will fulfill what is expected from it.

We are of the opinion that to achieve the objective one yearns for a world without nuclear weapons, it is necessary to speedily work out and adopt a program of nuclear disarmament. Nostalgic yearning for global hegemony does not get on well with the laws of nuclear physics. Therefore, such a program should contain ethical and political, as well as contractually legal -- but above all realistic and extensive material measures, based on the principles of mutuality, equality, and equal security. It would provide a historic opportunity to build a good foundation for a peaceful entry into the 21st century. With a totally different nuclear strategy. With a significantly lowered risk that civilization will go up in the fire of nuclear apocalypse.

Of course, no agreement has a chance of succeeding if there is not a mutual deep understanding of the catastrophic nature of a nuclear conflict and as long as political will and mutual restraint do not change deceptive illusions or unrealistically calculated intentions. Herein lies the rational core of the new thinking in a nuclear age.

We also consistently support the proposal that all nuclear powers commit themselves not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. We are in favor of a quantitative and qualitative freeze on nuclear arms. We appreciate the joint declaration from Delhi of the heads of states and governments of Argentina, India, Mexico, Greece, Sweden, and Tanzania, which stresses the exceptionally topical character of these issues.

We attach great importance to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an important factor strengthening international security. We identify with the outcome of the third review conference, which confirmed that this document is one of the fundamental pillars of the international order. It represents an important obstacle to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and at the same time it is an instrument providing sufficient scope for the utilization of nuclear power for peaceful ends. We are in favor of making this treaty absolutely universal, which would ensure its even greater effectiveness.

We consider respect for the existing, and the formation of new nuclear-free zones to be an inseparable part of strengthening the nonproliferation regime.

We support the proposal for the formation of a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe, which also directly affects the CSSR, as well as nuclear-free zones in the north of our continent and the Balkans. We are also prepared to give our support to all constructive proposals concerning other parts of the world.

We are also in favor of a speedy convocation of a conference that would discuss the question of transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

As far as the other type of mass destruction weapons is concerned -- chemical weapons -- we are striving for a worldwide ban on them. Unfortunately, practical progress on this issue at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament is being blocked by the obstructive attitude of known circles. Furthermore, the situation is being further complicated by the American decision to renew the production of binary chemical ammunitions, intended above all for Western Europe. In this situation it is necessary in our opinion to undertake parallel steps on the regional level, especially in Europe. That is why the CSSR and GDR Governments have proposed to the Government of the FRG the conclusion of an agreement on setting up a zone free of chemical weapons, which would in the initial stage encompass the territories of these three states. We welcome the fact that, as has been declared from this rostrum, the FRG Government is studying our proposal. We hope that it will assume a positive attitude to it. As for our part, we are ready to start the appropriate talks as soon as possible.

We support the adoption of measures on nonincreasing and reducing military expenditures with the aim of devoting the resources thus released to the needs of social and economic development, including in the developing states.

We continue to attribute great importance to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament as the only comprehensive disarmament forum of a global character. We welcome the fact that certain progress has been achieved in the course of its session this year, as is borne out, for example, by the formation of an ad hoc committee for space. Regrettably, some Western states are trying to gradually change the conference from a negotiating body into a mere debating club. They block the establishment of working bodies for priority questions and slow down the attainment of progress on problems under discussion. We are convinced that from this jubilee session of the General Assembly, strong incentives should arise for states taking part in the conference to mobilize their political will and lead the Geneva negotiations out of their long stagnation.

Mr Chairman,

As for hotbeds of tension, I would like to point above all to the situation in Central America, where imperialism is overtly stepping up aggressive actions, including military actions, against the sovereign Nicaraguan Republic and against the movements of national liberation in El Salvador and other countries. We highly regard the constructive attitude of the Nicaraguan Government and appreciate the activity of the Contadora Group and the support which it receives from other Latin American countries.

We consistently demand the adoption of effective sanctions by the Security Council against the Republic of South Africa. New waves of racist terror against the African population demonstrate that the so-called "reforms" carried out by the Pretoria regime do not change in the least the shameful essence of apartheid. The situation brooks no delay; apartheid must be swept off the fact of Africa as soon as possible. We resolutely support the immediate granting of independence to the people of Namibia on the basis of the implementation of the relevant UN decisions, including Security Council resolutions.

The latest aggression by the Republic of South Africa against the sovereign People's Republic of Angola confirmed anew that there will be no peace in the area while there is the apartheid regime. We condemn this aggression, this blatant manifestation of the policy of state terrorism. We voice full support for the brave struggle of the Angolan people in the defense of the independence of their homeland.

In the Middle East, current developments yet again show clearly that the policy of separate steps in the style of Camp David cannot lead to a just settlement. This policy can only be enacted at the expense of the interests and national rights not only of the Palestinian people, but of all Arab nations. The way out of the present situation, caused by the Israeli aggression, is shown by the united approach of the Arab states adopted at the summit in Fes. The principles agreed upon in Fes could be implemented through the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East, as proposed by the USSR. A natural condition is, of course, the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the recognition of the Palestinians' right to set up a separate, independent state. We also fully support efforts aimed at renewing the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon. We resolutely condemn the latest aggressive attack by Israel, whose victim this time was distant Tunisia. Regrettably, even now the aggressor receives cynical support from his strategic ally.

We desire a speedy end to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. Given good political will, disputed issues can be solved honorably on both sides through peaceful negotiations. This would be in accord with the interests of the peoples of both countries and the whole region. We resolutely condemn the attempts of imperialism to exploit this conflict in order to increase their military presence in the Persian Gulf and in the Indian Ocean.

We hold the unchanging view that the normalization of the situation in and around Afghanistan is only possible if the right of its people to independent development is fully respected, and if the armed and other forms of interference in the internal affairs of this country are terminated. We consider the negotiations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan through a representative of the UN Secretary General to be a useful process. It would be beneficial for these talks if they reached the stage of direct negotiations.

As far as the situation in Southeast Asia is concerned, we support the proposals of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia aimed at transforming Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation. We consider political dialogue to be the only effective way of solving the region's problems, especially political dialogue between the states of Indochina and the countries of ASEAN. We regard the representation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the UN as a wholly just step, corresponding to reality.

We once again voice our full support for the efforts of the DPRK for a peaceful unification of Korea on democratic foundations and without foreign interference; for its demand for the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea, and for the transformation of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. We continue to regard the resolution adopted on the DPRK's initiative at the 30th session of the UN General Assembly as a good basis for the solution of the Korean issue.

We are convinced that the implementation of several known initiatives proposing that the whole of Asia be turned into a zone of peace and security would significantly contribute to strengthening stability in the world.

This would require efforts on the part of all Asian states, irrespective of their social systems and, ultimately, the holding of an all-Asian forum to discuss the whole range of problems pertaining to safeguarding peaceful coexistence and good-neighborly relations on that continent, similar to the Helsinki conference in Europe.

We fully support the peaceful and just solution of the Cyprus issue. This solution should make sure that Cyprus remains an independent, sovereign, territorially integral, united, and nonaligned state and should free it from any foreign interference and military presence.

It is a sad reality that today, 40 years after the founding of the UN and 25 years after the adoption of the historic Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Territories and Nations, the basic and inalienable right to freedom and independence is still being denied to the people of a number of countries. That is why we once again and emphatically call for the immediate liquidation of the remnants of colonialism in all its forms and expressions, including neocolonialism.

Mr Chairman,

Our organization is taking an important part in the solution of international economic and social problems. It has gradually set up bodies, organizations, and specialized agencies coordinating economic, commercial, scientific, and technological cooperation. It has also become a framework for the adoption of major multilateral documents regulating this cooperation.

Regrettably, the principles contained in these documents are constantly being violated. Together with many developing countries, we have for many years been pointing to the necessity of ensuring economic security. We condemn embargoes, discriminatory measures, sanctions, or making economic and humanitarian aid conditional on political concessions.

Relations between the developing debtor countries and their creditors cannot be viewed through an accountant's narrow "debit-credit" formula. They are, after all, a consequence of the centuries-old process of exploitation of African, Asian, and Latin American countries by colonialism and neocolonialism, as well as a consequence of unparalleled manipulations with the terms of credit repayment. Let us recall that in medieval Europe usurers were punished for usury, manipulating interest rates, and the unscrupulous fleecing of debtors with punishments that were not exactly fastidious, including burning at the stake and nailing to the stake.

We are in favor of a complete normalization of credit policy. We fully support the proposal submitted here by Wojciech Jaruzelski, premier of the Polish People's Republic, to set up under the patronage on the UN secretary general an international center to study problems of debt and to engage in research in the sphere of development.

We continuously strive for the rebuilding of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and for the creation of conditions for equal cooperation. We have confirmed this again by the proposal for an action program for the improvement of these relations, put forward by the summit conference of CEMA member-states. It represents an offer that is open to all countries.

We welcome the fact that the proposals of the recent conference of the movement of nonaligned countries in Luanda are oriented in the same way.

This broad peace association plays an increasingly important and irreplaceable role in the world, especially in the present complicated situation. We respect its activity in the struggle against the danger of a nuclear catastrophe, for a peaceful outer space, disarmament, the development of broad mutually advantageous international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of conflicts, and the liquidation of hotbeds of tension in various parts of the world.

If we are to speak about human rights, this is an ideal that is as old as mankind itself. As such, it must inevitably also be enshrined in the UN Charter. However, if it is to be enacted to a greater extent throughout the length and breadth of the globe, how is it possible that certain countries are being stigmatized with the mark of Cain as supposed culprits while others, in accordance with political needs, are being credited with the ideal of democratic perfection? I am therefore asking: Are those who are so fond of pointing their finger at others free of any sin? Have they enshrined in their constitutions the right to work for all their fellow men? Are they granting them the right to free education? To free medical care? To rest? To old-age pensions? Have they ratified international pacts on civil and political rights? Or pacts on economic, social, and cultural rights? Does the Biblical saying that "You see the mote in someone else's eye but ignore the beam in your own" not apply to this search for incorrect answers to correct questions? It is necessary to repeat again and again that human rights are always a concrete connection of civil and political rights with basic economic and social rights, and that every country perceives them in accordance with its own concept. This fact must be respected. Otherwise we will continue to wander in the vicious circle of irrationality.

Mr Chairman,

I can assure you that Czechoslovakia, loyal to the mission of the United Nations, will continue to live up to its noble goals. As CSSR President Gustav Husak has said: "It will continue to struggle to avert the threat of war; for disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament; for a peaceful solution of international problems on the principles of equality and equal security; and for the return of international relations to the path of detente and constructive cooperation."

Talks With UN Head

LD051659 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 2200 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Text] The United Nations -- In New York on 4 Oct, UN General Secretary Perez de Cuellar received Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, head of the CSSR delegation at the 40th UN General Assembly session. In a conversation, they exchanged views on topical problems of international relations and agreed in noting the indispensable importance of the peace-making mission of the United Nations and its agencies in resolving them. They described the most urgent tasks of today as averting the threat of nuclear war, maintaining world peace, preventing the militarization of space, achieving progress in disarmament and peace, and finding a just resolution to the flashpoints of tension and conflicts in the world.

Meets PRC's Wu, Others

LD051704 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 4 Oct 85

[Text] The United Nations -- Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, the leader of the Czechoslovak delegation at the 40th UN General Assembly session, met in New York on 4 Oct with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

They examined the current state of Czechoslovak-Chinese relations, exchanged views on prospects for their further development, and expressed the interest of both countries governments in their expansion and intensification. They also devoted great attention to the current international situation, particularly the topical issues of averting the threat of nuclear war, preventing the militarization of space, and halting the arms race.

Bohuslav Chnoupek also discussed bilateral relations and the international situation with the foreign ministers of Libya and of Australia, 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki and William Hayden, respectively.

Meets Polish, Iranian Ministers

LD060306 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1900 GMT 5 Oct 85

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Bohuslav Chnoupek met with his Polish counterpart, Stefan Olszowski, in New York on 5 October. During a comradely discussion, both ministers concentrated on topical issues of the present international development and on the tasks the United Nations and its 40th General Assembly session are confronted with. Both ministers noted that the most important of these tasks is to avert the nuclear war danger, to prevent space militarization, to achieve concrete progress in the sphere of disarmament and in the process of relaxation of tension, and in broadening international cooperation.

Bohuslav Chnoukpek also met with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Returns to CSSR

LD061542 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1500 GMT 6 Oct 85

[Text] Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, returned to the CSSR on 6 Oct from the 40th UN General Assembly session. He was welcomed at Prague Airport by Zdenek Cernik, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other ministry officials.

BRIEFS

WOMEN'S GROUP IN CUBA -- Fidel Castro, the highest Cuban representative, has received in Havana a Czechoslovak Union of Women Central Committee delegation led by Comrade Marie Kabrhelova. The delegation also met with representatives of Cuban trade unions and women's movement. The delegation left for Nicaragua today. [Text] [Prague Television Service in Czech and Slovak 1830 GMT 9 Oct 85 LD]

JOURNALISM PROTOCOL WITH IRAQ -- Representatives of the Czechoslovak and Iraqi Journalists' Unions signed a protocol today in Baghdad on a cooperation agreement for 1985-1990. The protocol provides for the exchange of journalists, and assistance in ensuring better information among each other's people regarding events in the respective countries. [Text] [Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1000 GMT 9 Oct 85 LD]

11 OCT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS, DEBATES

LD121237 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Unidentified correspondent's report on 11 October National Assembly session debate on government program presented on 10 October; recorded remarks by Industry Minister Laszlo Kapolyi, Premier Gyorgy Lazar, and Finance Minister Istvan Hetenyi contained within quotation marks]

[Excerpts] The National Assembly continued its work today with a debate on the government program. First to speak was Minister of Industry Laszlo Kapolyi. In his introduction he reviewed industrial development and the tasks remaining to be solved. He said that in the seventies the driving forces of development had changed; cheap raw materials had run out; the number of people employed in industry had decreased by 140,000; machinery and technology had become outdated. Laszlo Kapolyi said the main causes of falling behind were to be found in the slow adaptation to the changed circustances, in the tightened resources for development, and in backward technological standards. He said that one way to overcome this situation would be to introduce regulations providing incentives for profit, along with differentiations in accordance with set goals.

He also spoke about coal supplies.

Regarding the tasks facing industry, Laszlo Kapolyi said the following:

"The responsibility of industry today and especially in the future is to find out how, with a comprehensive development policy, it can provide the motiviation needed for the continued development of our economy.

"In this context it must be empasized that the decisive majority of industrial enterprises have a concrete development strategy built on the foundations of a well-planned technological development policy, and on people having creative talent. Efficient and high standard enterprise activities accompanying this can be the sole guarantee for the attainment of our goals, because demand still outstrips production. It is often asked whether resources to overcome this are available? If we only take into account the substitute means then it is certain that we can still not consider that resources are fully secure. However, this is precisely the strategy of industrial development which forms part of the government program, so that the acceleration of development should be achieved to an increasing extent by increasing earnings-generating potential, and by a more efficient utilization of social resources.

"Dynamic development will have to be achieved primarily in the quality indices and through these quality indices. This can be facilited by the withdrawal of means from less efficient areas and by their redirection to the centers of gravity. This requires a differentiated approach in production and development policy, as well as in the system of regulators. Profitable activities must be given a free passage. Those unecomonic products, which are needed by the people's economy, must be made profitable and economic, but everything that is uneconomic and that can be obtained from other sources must be eliminated."

Premier Gyorgy Lazar then summed up the debate and replied to contributions:

"Within the past day-and-a-half, 23 comrade deputies have conveyed opinions and expressed -- the majority of them did so reflecting not only their own opinion -- agreement with the government program. I thank you, on behalf of the government, for the support, the criticism, the opinions approving our plans, and the recommendations and proposals which are of great help to us in making our program even more complete and in our working even more successfully to fulfill these plans.

"Our day-and-a-half thinking aloud together, which truly reflected all those things which characterize our socialist reality today, which occupy our people, was so rich in themes, in proposals demanding further thinking and consideration, that it would be unworthy to give a quick reply. However, please excuse me for my not going into detail. In the coming weeks we will conscientiously process these opinions, and propals; we will utilize a large proportion of these when we complete the draft bill of the Seventh 5-Year Plan. We will utilize others when we work on social and economic problems noted in part of the plan, and others will be utilized later.

"Comrade Kiraly [not further identified] expounded interesting ideas just now: well, it is not my task to judge whether the kind of practice he recommended should be followed in the future. In any case I hope and I think that we should be able to fulfill this expectation. We must not fall into a contradiction with ourselves when, in December, we will present the Seventh 5-Year Plan to the National Assembly. I feel that this debate perhaps helps us to present a proposed plan in a greater sense of security and in a better founded manner, a plan that will gain the support of the National Assembly.

"After this introduction, in my reply -- intended to be short -- I would like first to speak about the feelings evoked in me by the debate. It impressed me, and I think I am not alone in this. Every speaker, without spectacular promises and many times without saying, but nevertheless leaving no room for misunderstanding, expressed his agreement with the policy of our party, the resolution of the 13th congress. The relaxed manner of the contribution also impressed me, and so did the fact that every question -- even those which some time in the past were so-called sensitive questions -- was raised with such a natural openness which is possible only in such a democratic atmosphere as the one characterizing our public opinion. It filled me with a sense of well-being that although there had been many critical remarks, and on occasions some hard and passionate voices, the identification with the cause, the common responsibility, the undertaking of common tasks and, at the same time the hope in the future, were felt in every speech.

"Second, I would like to deal with some of those questions which came back repeatedly in the debate several times. I will not go into details. The first issue I wish to speak about is the character of our program. Many comrade deputies expressed an opinion. I fully agree with those who emphasized that the program is an organic continuation of the work carried out so far, and is built on its achievements, but it still has a markedly new feature. This new feature is that it no longer places the creation of balance to the fore, but puts in first place the task of consolidating balance; it does not put limitation in the forefront but instead puts development to the fore.

"Why is it important to emphasize this and to make everyone aware of it? In my conviction it is important because setting the economy into motion demands a different approach, different solutions from those which were required when the task was the consolidation of balance.

"Moreover, because the further development of the system of management is indispensible for progress, and also because it is not enough to demand the further development of the system of management, the consequences resulting from this must be tolerated too. Naturally, I do not claim that we have found -- and I dare not promise for the future either -- the best solution in every case in respect of the individual tools regarding the further development of the system of management. The government's responsibility here lies in the fact that when this failure to find the best solution in an individual case occurs, and despite efforts to the contrary, the government should consider primarily not the question of prestige, but the case itself, it should put the case in the forefront -- enterprises are justified in expecting this -- and should correct things where necessary. At the same time I have to call your attention to and to emphasize -- as well as having to ask for the support and understanding of the comrades -- that we will commit a greater number of errors if we delay making effective the changes suitable for the situation and for the recognized (?problem) than if we delay this in the interest of stabilizing the economic regulators.

"The second issue about which would like to speak are the preconditions for the fulfillment of our program. This subject was addressed by many comrade deputies, saying that the program is a (?stained) one, but realistic. The spiritual and material conditions exist or can be created which are necessary for the fulfillment of this program. Several examples were given to prove this. Let me quote some of these. Well, we have reduced the number of working hours to 40 a week in industry, but the utilization of manpower has a coefficient -- it appears that this now is operating like a law of nature, though it is not a law of nature here [Lazar says this laughingly] -- this coefficient means that we utilize about 80 percent of the legal working time. Well, to lose 20 percent of the labor manpower cannot be tolerated by even those countries much richer than us, indeed, the richer countries cannot afford this. Another well-known fact, which may be traced back to more objective reasons, is that our energy consumption, our specific material consumption exceeds by 20 - 50 percent the scale calculated in respect to the national income in comparison to the scale characteristic in the countries, which for historical reasons, are economically more advanced than Hungary. But there are other factors as well. The age of our products, even those we export, is about 15 or 16 years. Why do I say this comrades? Comrade Zoltan Koteles, deputy minister of industry, -- with those remarks and opinion I, by the way, agree -- referred very convincingly and cleverly to very important questions concerning the interconnection between modernization and investments. I would like to call your attention to the fact that a stock of assets exists, and is in our hands. A great spiritual capacity exists which must be better utilized and which can be better utilized without, or with little, supplementary investment, and we can create in this way too resources for the completion of the investments described by him -- by the way, correctly -- as indispensible, so that we should be able to advance even more rapidly. Well, these are our reserves.

"However, let me speak about agriculture: Our agriculture, as I have already mentioned in my introduction, commands a very dignified place in the world. Out of 27 European countries it is third in the world in units of wheat [as heard] per capita, while in respect of some individual produce it is first in the world in per capita production. Considering the standard of production, which is measured by different indicators, it is in ninth place, and according to other calculations it is in 12th or 13th place.

"Well, this too is a dignified position, but it shows something; it demonstrates what we usually describe as follows: In agriculture there is a need to turn toward greater efficiency, toward a reduction of costs and a simultaneous increase in production, because it is in this way we can avoid endangering the competitiveness of agriculture."

"The next issue, one which I also regard as important, is the fuller informing and involvement of public opinion in our ideas, winning public opinion over to these ideas, and from this point of view [passage indistinct]. A practive has evolved, one which can perhaps be perceived over a wide sphere, according to which we do not ignore important signals which reach us through the press. Instead, we explore them, and in the majority of cases, they give rise to initiatives, governmental measures or other steps serving the solution of a genuine problem. Thus, we are endeavoring to take serious note of signals which come to us by way of the press, and we will do so in the future."

"We have, however, our own requirements. Let me be clear about what I have in mind here. I am not against the manifestation of just criticism, but I consider that in the sphere of the approach taken toward faults, the important and guiding principle is to direct attention first and foremost to how the fault can be overcome. Another observation of mine is also connected with this: Very often we approach new issues by looking at why a given solution will not succeed, instead of discussing how it can be well implemented. Let me speak for a moment on the important issue of the settlement development contribution. Several comrades have mentioned this question. My feeling is that the same thing is involved here: We are endeavoring, perhaps a little clumsily, to bring a good cause to the awareness of public opinion; we are trying to get it accepted by public opinion -- this is something that Comrade Ujvari [a member of the Auditing Committee] and other comrades also mentioned. It is also one of those issues where we ought to be looking for ways of implementing this rather than asking why it cannot be implemented.

Esteemed National Assembly, dear comrade deputies. Thank you for your patience. I ask you once again to approve the work program submitted by the government and facilitate its implementation."

The National Assembly deputies unanimously approved -- without votes against or abstentions -- the government program and Premier Lazar's reply to the debate. After a brief interval, Finance Minister Istvan Hetenyi submitted the draft bill on the implementation of the budget for the year 1984. In his speech he analyzed the lessons that can be drawn from the functioning of the economy during the past year. He spoke emphatically about the effects economic work in 1984 had in the current year.

"The results this year up to now have been disappointing in several respects. Certain targets cannot be fully attained and great endeavors are required in the remaining period in order to reduce the foreign debt."

"This year began amidst difficult circumstances. However, despite the wide-ranging endeavors, unfortunately, we have found that the problems were not simply connected with the winter, and our results show a trend of only very slow improvement from month-to-month. It is already quite clear that the State Budget deficit will exceed that which was approved by the National Assembly. In my opinion, it is precisely the structural transformation, the acceleration of the favorable process and social-cultural stability which justify us not insisting most rigidly on the figure of the approved deficit, but rather that we should take certain steps within the framework of what is possible in the sphere of subsidies serving the success of the economy."

"We regard reforming the budget as indispensable within the framework of the endeavors aimed at renewing the system of institutions and decisionmaking. Certain steps in this direction will be reflected in the budget for 1986. Not for the first time we must again face up to the fact that the budget policy must serve the development of efficient production not by reducing the state's tasks in the sphere of welfare and structural transformation, but by reducing losses.

"In the interest of accelerating the desired process the government will work out draft bills which will take the interests of the economy, as well as of the creditors and workers of enterprises facing serious economic problems, equally into consideration. On the other hand, the enterprises rightly expect that a proportion of the sums which will accrue from the reduction of losses should be devoted to the reduction in the direct burdens borne by the well-functioning enterprises. In other words, that we should adjust the system of taxation to up-to-date requirements, and that the reduction of subsidies should not be part of a policy of merely introducing greater stringency, but rather a financial policy of incentives. In my opinion, this will lead to providing firmer foundations for activities of the dynamically developing enterprises. This will also lead to the not sufficiently efficient enterprises either rapidly improving their work or rapidly diminishing in size.

"Let me remark here that, in my opinion, this is the most fundamental basis for a counter-inflationary policy. We cannot limit a counterinflationary policy to the activities of the National Material and Price Office and to fixing prices."

The third point on the agenda was the submission of the justification of the interpellation which Miklos Vida [not further identified] submitted to the government in connection with laws relating to energy. He said that we have 6 laws concerning the energy, but these are 10-20 years old and they ought to be brought up-to-date. In his reply, Industry Minister Laszlo Kapolyi said that for the time being the government did not intend to create a new law relating to energy, but the interpellation would be investigated by the relevant specialists. The minister's reply was accepted by Miklos Vida and, unanimously, by the other deputies.

The 2-day session of the National Assembly was then concluded.

SRV PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION DEPARTS 14 OCT

LD141155 Budapest MTI in English 1032 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Budapest, October 14 (MTI) -- The Vietnamese parliamentary delegation, which had paid an official friendship visit to Hungary under the leadership of Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, left Budapest, on Monday [14 October].

The delegation held talks with Istvan Sarlos, member of the HSWP Political Committee and speaker of parliament, and met Pal Losonczi, president of the Presidential Council. The Vietnamese MPs attended the first day of the autumn session of Hungarian parliament.

Members visited the National Council of Industrial Cooperatives, met the party and state leaders of Fejer County, and saw round the Ikarus factory and the Vorosmarty cooperative farm at Szekesfehervar. At the week-end the delegation saw the sights of Esztergom.

In honour of the delegation Istvan Sarlos gave a lunch, and a reception was held by the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

GASPAR INTERVIEWED ON ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS

LD101454 Budapest Television Service in Hungrian 1950 GMT 9 Oct 85

[Interview with Sandor Gaspar, MSZMP Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the National Council of Trade Unions, SZOT, by reporters Laszlo Medveczky; date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Medveczky] Good evening. It is with great respect that I welcome in the studio Comrade Sandor Gaspar, MSZMP Politburo member, chairman of SZOT. Thank you for accepting our invitation.

[Gaspar] It is both our task and our duty.

[Medveczky] If you will allow me, then I will begin this conversation with a topic that, in a certain sense, is personal and yet concerns many people. Public performance, as our meeting today illustrates, is a close concomitant of your work. For example, your speech at the MSZMP's 13th Congress evoked a great response. Before I ask the first question, let us hear a few sentences from that speech.

[Begin Gaspar recording] Even if there should be need of such measures again, another price rise must not be introduced with such lack of preparation. The trade unions were also sharply criticized, and quite rightly, because, very well, if a great matter like this has to be done -- and it has to be done -- then the conditions must be created for it. But we ignored these matters. We knew that there was no coal -- we raised the price of coal as well. In the provinces people on very low incomes, and even those whose incomes are not so low, had stopped using oil and stopped using gas; we said let us return to coal, they did what we told them to do, and then there was no coal. They had to scrounge around for it and take it home in shopping bags. We must not raise prices again with such lack of preparation. We must study the situation and create the right conditions. [end recording]

[Medveczky] Well, these were memorable, harsh words. What was the response to them?

[Gaspar] Well, for the last 20-30 years we have had no serious problems with the reception of political messages. Based on experience and trust, people on the whole agree with the political messages. This applies to the entire message of the 13th congress and to the trade union message, too. This is true even if in the last couple of years or so it has been necessary to say things that are difficult to agree on. To be more precise, the people can understand it, but they question whether this or that really has to be done in that way.

[Medveczky] But what was the reaction like?

[Gaspar] On the whole there was agreement with the message. So nowadays, in forming and shaping the message, in general -- this applies particularly to the trade unions -- the situation is not so easy for them either, because the trade union membership is nearly 5 million, including pensioners and everybody. Well, here we are talking about people living under very different conditions. They are all in different situations: the pensioners, those on low pensions, old pensioners, low-wage earners, people with large families, and people on good wages. Now, it is very difficult to say something that everyone will identify with or agree with.

[Medveczky] If we are talking about opinions, reaction, how, through what filters -- though that is not a nice word -- does the public mood reach you? As a practising television director, I regularly read your public mood reports, in which there are sometimes very extreme views. I wonder if this information system always influences your opinion correctly?

[Gaspar] How it influences me -- that I cannot answer, but one has to pay attention to these elements of mood, even if they are extreme, when one is drawing up the accounts, shaping the message, and forming the resolutions. Therefore, the reports on the public mood are not embellished; we know exactly how things stand. We do not only feed on public mood reports. We are in daily contact with the membership, and in the SZOT admission is free; anyone at anytime can and does join. If a trade union action did not turn out well, or a trade union action is presented incomprehensibly, then the next day people express an opinion. They either telephone or they come and say: We do not understand this; we would like a fuller explanation and the reason why it had to be done like this. Therefore, the trade union movement is open and we shape and form the tasks together with the membership.

[Medveczky] When we were preparing for this conversation you said you consider historically significant the recognition that there is no real worker power, under socialist conditions, without trade unions, without rights and spheres of influence [as heard]. Nowadays at every significant political forum it is said -- and practice shows this -- that in our country not a single issue relating to workers' living and working conditions can be decided without the trade unions. If we look at the last 40 years of the Hungarian trade union movement, we see that this was by no means always the case. What was the turning point, in your opinion and when did it take place?

[Gaspar] In fact there have been three fundamental phases in the development of the Hungarian trade union movement since 1945. There was one phase from 1945-1948 or 1949. This was an upward rising phase, a struggle for power, and so on. That was a clear and unequivocally positive phase of development. The second one, from 1949 or 1950 up to 1956 -- that is one I do not analyze. And after 1956 a phase began, which -- and this we can say with certainty -- resulted in the trade union movement now having such power and rights that it is really impossible to decide any basic issue without the trade unions. This not only means the trade union movement's -- or to be more precise, the workers' -- right to have a say, this is also one of authority's means of self-defense, since the possibility of error is always smaller if this or that decision, before being put into effect, is examined by as many people as possible, and as many people as possible express an opinion about it.

[Medveczky] Allow me to ask a question: Do you have many arguments with the government?

[Gaspar] The situation we are discussing here, whether the trade union movement now has every possible means to answer its calling, and to fulfill its function, is not the same as saying that the trade union movement is capable of settling everything and able to do everything. We are discussing the realistic bases of the endeavors of the trade union movement and all of socialist society; therefore, we have to start from what exists. Now, to give a concrete answer to the question: How is our relationship with the government? Well, I say with responsibility that it is honorable and correct. It is not idyllic and not free from debates. We are guided by one objective; we work in one and the same direction; our functions are different, but our interests converge on one point by virtue of our functions. To start out with what we were discussing here the trade unions are in on the preparation of every decision. They do not have the last word, naturally.

There are many things involved here. But when we debate this or that issue with the government, then the platform is very clear, because the government knows what is possible. The trade unions also know what is possible.

One misunderstanding arises because many people still believe or think that the trade union movement is the only representative of workers' interests in Hungary. This is a misconception. It is not the only one; it serves the cause and the interest of the entire socialist society, and of the working class. Within this there is a leading party, the MSZMP, that is also active in the interest of the working class. And then we have an executive organ of state authority, that also serves the interest of the working class. The trade union movement is, how shall I put it, the legal representative of workers - that is not a good expression, but I can not think of a better one now, acts in the name of the workers, invested, that is, with legal possibilities to represent and safeguard workers' interests. We know how much money the government has; therefore, we can not make unrealistic demands.

[Medveczky] From what you have said it is also evident to me that the trade unions today take part institutionally in the shaping of policy. At one time, when the task was to get the most basic needs or demands of workers accepted, the trade union objectives could be formulated more simply and more clearly. In Hungary, in the meantime, the right to work has become a civic right; full employment and social security have become general; public education has developed -- to mention just a few of the most important things. In recent years important changes have taken place in the country. These changes demand from the trade unions partly new outlooks, partly new methods. I do not know, Comrade Gaspar, if you agree that the objectives of trade union work have also significantly changed. How would you sum these up? To put it more simply, what should a person who enters the trade unions now expect in the coming years?

[Gaspar] In the congress speech quoted just now, I alluded to that consequence, an adjunct of development, that compels the trade unions to reexamine certain methods, and what is more, the prospects of the trade union movement must also be more thoroughly explored and the situation adjusted. The content of trade union work always depends on the state of social development and on the way in which, in that state, it can represent interests and safeguard interests.

[Medveczky] Well, what is the present situation?

[Gaspar] Well, it is absolutely true that basic demands of workers over decades, trade union demands, have in our country become civic rights; but these have not yet been fully accomplished. This has still not reached the stage, in any of the issues, which we would find satisfactory and in connection with which we would have nothing more to do. For example: the right to work. Yes, this is guaranteed, and it is good, that we have it. There is full employment.

[Medveczky] And is that good, too, that there is full employment?

[Gaspar] That is good, too; that is good, too. But still it is not good that, within full employment, the employment of the workforce is not the most rational. That is, it is not utilized in the most rational way. The other concrete question -- social security -- has become general. But even this is not the social security socialism is capable of if it develops and once it is at full strength. But, alongside this, it is true that the prospects of the trade union movement have to be sought. I can not go into details now. We will have to explore the prospects further and determine our tasks, at our next congress in February. But let me just say that -- and I think this arises from the nature of the thing -- we shall look for tasks in this area.

There are many things involved here. But when we debate this or that issue with the government, then the platform is very clear, because the government knows what is possible. The trade unions also know what is possible.

One misunderstanding arises because many people still believe or think that the trade union movement is the only representative of workers' interests in Hungary. This is a misconception. It is not the only one; it serves the cause and the interest of the entire socialist society, and of the working class. Within this there is a leading party, the MSZMP, that is also active in the interest of the working class. And then we have an executive organ of state authority, that also serves the interest of the working class. The trade union movement is, how shall I put it, the legal representative of workers - that is not a good expression, but I can not think of a better one now, acts in the name of the workers, invested, that is, with legal possibilities to represent and safeguard workers' interests. We know how much money the government has; therefore, we can not make unrealistic demands.

[Medveczky] From what you have said it is also evident to me that the trade unions today take part institutionally in the shaping of policy. At one time, when the task was to get the most basic needs or demands of workers accepted, the trade union objectives could be formulated more simply and more clearly. In Hungary, in the meantime, the right to work has become a civic right; full employment and social security have become general; public education has developed -- to mention just a few of the most important things. In recent years important changes have taken place in the country. These changes demand from the trade unions partly new outlooks, partly new methods. I do not know, Comrade Gaspar, if you agree that the objectives of trade union work have also significantly changed. How would you sum these up? To put it more simply, what should a person who enters the trade unions now expect in the coming years?

[Gaspar] In the congress speech quoted just now, I alluded to that consequence, an adjunct of development, that compels the trade unions to reexamine certain methods, and what is more, the prospects of the trade union movement must also be more thoroughly explored and the situation adjusted. The content of trade union work always depends on the state of social development and on the way in which, in that state, it can represent interests and safeguard interests.

[Medveczky] Well, what is the present situation?

[Gaspar] Well, it is absolutely true that basic demands of workers over decades, trade union demands, have in our country become civic rights; but these have not yet been fully accomplished. This has still not reached the stage, in any of the issues, which we would find satisfactory and in connection with which we would have nothing more to do. For example: the right to work. Yes, this is guaranteed, and it is good, that we have it. There is full employment.

[Medveczky] And is that good, too, that there is full employment?

[Gaspar] That is good, too; that is good, too. But still it is not good that, within full employment, the employment of the workforce is not the most rational. That is, it is not utilized in the most rational way. The other concrete question -- social security -- has become general. But even this is not the social security socialism is capable of if it develops and once it is at full strength. But, alongside this, it is true that the prospects of the trade union movement have to be sought. I can not go into details now. We will have to explore the prospects further and determine our tasks, at our next congress in February. But let me just say that -- and I think this arises from the nature of the thing -- we shall look for tasks in this area.

The accomplishment of a socialist society in the last degree makes it possible and necessary that this so-called self-government, which is part of the essential feature of a socialist society, should become concrete not only at the workplace but also on the social scale.

The introduction of new forms of enterprise management also serves the objective that we use them already in the plants, at the workplaces, and we create the conditions for what we call the transition to self-management, self-government. Of course, this is a long process. That is the reason we created these management councils, enterprise councils, so that there people will get to know directly, too, all the problems and troubles of the factory, and how they should deal with them. In other words, we should make all bigger and smaller issues of destiny the concern of everybody at the workplace; this creates the conditions for self-government. Here we must watch out for one thing very carefully, and this is also an historic experience: In social development there are cases when, because of impatience, we try to build into society features for which the conditions are not yet ripe, for which society is not yet ready.

[Medveczky] Could you give a concrete example?

[Gaspar] Well, we carried out the organization of the producer cooperatives ahead of time. Had we waited a few years, then -- as the historical example now shows -- then this would have been a lot easier, simpler, and more natural. Therefore, there was impatience there, which is perhaps understandable historically, but which is still not excusable. There are several examples. We had great arguments when we rented out these smaller catering industry units and smaller commercial units this last year, and so on. Well, the nationalization of these was also too hurried. It was a pity. We might have waited. So these..but there is also the reverse case. If the conditions are ripe and we do not build in new elements, that could cause just as much damage as if we had built them in ahead of time. These are now all historical experiences and we must learn from these and draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Medveczky] Well, then, finally, how should we sum it up: What can the trade union movement write on its banner today in place of the erstwhile slogan Work! Bread!?

[Gaspar] That the trade union movement is working on the accomplishment of this socialist society. We stand before the solution of as yet unaccomplished, big tasks. Whether we write it on a banner or mark it down as a task makes no difference now. We have to serve the unfolding of every creative force with more varied methods than heretofore, because it appears that society now demands, the current phase of development now demands, the new, the things that take us forward. But we have not yet found the way.

[Medveczky] In our day we also hear many debates about how one should understand the trade unions' role of protecting interests, representing interests. It is very easy to say that the trade unions must serve alike the interests of the working individual and of society. Well, our social interest now, above all, is that the economy should strengthen, that the stack of debts should diminish, that there should be the means for technological development, for the safeguarding of the standard of living, even for its improvement. All this is also in the interest of the working man, and yet I feel that there are many contradictions. I would like to ask you about these contradictions and immediately afterwards about the possibilities for resolving these contradictions.

[Gaspar] Yes, the task is very complex here and multifaceted. The question is absolutely clear: Yes, interest-protection and interest-representation. In both areas like sets contradictions before us.

What is it all about, in more precise terms? There are cases when, according to our socialist principles, we are unable to solve things. I will give a concrete example: Distribution according to work. Well, according to our principles, the wages should have been differentiated better than before -- according to our principles, that is. And we know that in principle that is so. When the reorganization of the producer cooperatives was taking place -- I say this just as an example, to illustrate what it means -- we had everything, the technology, only we did not have the workforce. That was the time of the great migration from agriculture, from the villages. And so, to find a worker for an agricultural task we had to pay him more than he was worth. When a teacher, a highly qualified teacher, or a good white-collar engineer, had such and such a wage, we had to give considerably much more to the auxiliary worker who was there. This is against our principles; but principle is one thing and practice is another. Well, principles can only be employed as practice demands. There are these emergency detours, because if we had not paid that auxiliary staff, then there would have been no milk, then there would have been no meat, and they were what we needed.

So that is how we can adjust our affairs in midcourse, taking into account the guiding principles, but not cut off from life. One of the big strengths of this policy, of the MSZMP's policy, is that it has always been able to adapt, on the one hand to the reality, and took that as its basis, started out from that; and at the same time, it has never allowed its principles, our principles, to be questioned. So, it lies between these two things, and this is also what characterizes the contradictions. There are contradictions in our life because our principles demands one thing and practice makes something else possible. Such are our contradictions.

[Gaspar] Now consider the three 8-hour segments of each day. I do not need to go into detail. This is another century-old demand of the workers' movement. We introduced the 5-day week and the 40-hour week. People are justified today in asking us, the trade unions, what has happened to the "3-times-8-hour day." With the cost of living increase, everyone who can looks for extra income. Some do it by taking on more overtime in the factory and some go to earn their supplementary income working somewhere after an 8-, 7-, or 6-hour working day. It is clear then that they have no time for anything but getting the material means necessary to make a living. People are justified in asking the trade unions where the huge advantage and power of socialist society is in contrast to the older types of society, which could not only satisfy material needs if the conditions for this existed, but could also make human life more complete.

[Medveczky] Comrade Gaspar, I could quote other leaders but you yourself have emphasized on several occasions that the economic tasks must be solved primarily during the main working hours. This is where the situation should be created first and foremost so that the conditions required for more successful work can exist. Many signs indicate that this aim cannot now be immediately attained. This is, in most cases, probably because it is impossible for many people to secure the necessary material conditions. To what extent can this situation be regarded as temporary, and what do the trade unions think about it?

[Gaspar] A Marxist party can never adopt the Machiavellian motto that the end justifies the means. Its obligation is to consider what resources can be mobilized so that the country's economic power can grow. We have had every reason in the past 4 years to look for opportunities. Yes, we found opportunities.

This is another experiment we thought we could build into this stage of development. I think this is a function of timing, and the time is now; in 10 years this opportunity will not exist, and there would not have been any point in trying it 10 years ago. Now is the time. So what it is about?

We initiated the private ventures, economic work collectives, enterprise economic work collectives and so on for this purpose. It is correct. A society cannot be static; there is no such thing. Society is in constant motion and development. We utilized new resources, but two goals guided the leadership when we made these decisions: First, it should satisfy a need, and second, it shoulf produce something of value. Many resources were actually liberated. There is a benefit to it and a sense to it. It is clear that this initiative, like other initiatives, has sediments. This will have to be examined. We continue our experiments and initiatives with even more forms, even if we face incomprehension we must experiment, but at the same time we must get rid of these sediments. In other words, the initiatives should satisfy a need and produce something of value. We have recently recognized that there is another demand that must be met, namely, that income should be in proportion to production.

[Medveczky] The trade unions have a decisive say in the implementation of wage policy. Yet, many work places continue to distribute wages and incomes not determined by productivity. This can hardly be changed by a central order. What, in your opinion, is the solution?

[Gaspar] I have already referred to why we cannot introduce a differentiated wage system. We are unable to do it, but we are trying. The situation will become somewhat better as the independence of factories has increased. This matter has, in essence, become an issue for the factories. That is where the decisionmaking opportunity exists, in proportion, of course, to what the profit and profitability is like. A contradiction also exists here. Let us take a look at it. There are factories and work places that are currently verging on bankruptcy. The workers there give their best, doing honest work, but there is no profit. There is nothing from which their wages can be increased even in proportion of their productivity. There are such factories. There are some other factories that, due to some fortunate circumstances, have a market potential. They produce; they sell their product; and they therefore make a profit. Consequently, they also have the opportunity to raise wages and distribute the profit. It is possible here, however, that some workers did no more this year than last, but because they have a product that is marketable they prosper. This is where these contradictions lie. We cannot make everything uniform. We cannot decide, let's say, that every lathe operator and every tool maker should earn a specified amount per hour from tommorow and receive an increment once every 10 days. We cannot do this.

[Medveczky] Economic leaders complain that, when they really want to differentiate and pay outstanding wages to those who do the best work, it is the trade unions they find themselves confronting. Why are there no outstanding incomes for workers?

[Gaspar] There are outstanding incomes for workers. It is not true that, if somewhere the director or the economic leadership wants to introduce differentials and pay higher wages, the trade unions hinder them. This is not true; the facts do not bear it out. In reality wage ceilings no longer exist. Ceilings do not exist: the scale here is very broad. I do not believe that anyone in this country could say where the ceiling is for a highly-qualified skilled worker. A few years ago an hourly wage of 30 to 32 forints was discussed. The ceiling now may not be admitted to be higher than this, but in reality it is. There you are , this is another contradiction in our lives.

When we talk about differential wages, care must be taken mainly by the government, but the trade unions must also pay attention that harmony is maintained between the wages fund and the goods available in the shops. If the two diverge, there are no winners, even if there is more money. Very, very serious consequences may follow. This must also be taken into account.

[Medveczky] Every statistic shows that there is great labor mobility. Many people change their workplaces. What is your opinion of this phenomenon? Is it beneficial or damaging to society and the economy?

[Gasparov] We ourselves opened the way so that the working man can find the place which matches his value. Because the opportunities of factories and various sectors are differentiated he can move if he wants to. The nature of socialist society does not tolerate tying people to their workplace. You may remember the label "migratory bird" which was in common usage 10 or 15 years ago and which cannot be approved. Even then some people could not stay at one place; I do not know why, but this was a minority. But even then good, skilled workers went searching for their place in the sun. When they felt they could not express fully their abilities at their place of work they went looking for other options. This was institutionalized by government decress. This is a positive process, generally speaking. But there is fallout here, too. It has worked out too well, and we must again find the stimulators that can regulate this. The decisive majority of people changed their jobs in such a way that they went to a better workplace, they could work more, could perform better, productive work and their earnings also rose. This is the healthy aspect of the process, and this is how it should be. And there is another layer which found a place where they produce less, work less and earn more. This is not right. So these aspects will have to be regulated and altered again. So this measure had some positive features and it was necessary to open the way but we are familiar with the consequences and these consequences must be faced, not with administrative means but with stimulators, incentive systems, etc. But, as I say, some of the workforce migrated not to the service sector, where people would again be needed, but to the so-called easier sphere where they get more money for less work. So this is what I say needs to be regulated by stimulators, and the previously mentioned point must be taken into account, i.e., what the value of production is at a given place, what requirements are satisfied, and how earnings relate to the value produced.

[Medveczky] I think a very important topic would be left out of this conversation if we did not speak about work discipline. What one reads about this issue in the papers and experiences at workplaces strengthens the feeling that convincing people with reasoned argument does not carry much weight any more.

[Gaspar] Work discipline, state discipline, and also contract discipline have indeed deteriorated in the past year or two. Work discipline -- I use the word in its widest context. It has the least destructive effect in the new industrial estates, because the nature and ethic of the working man is such that when he goes to the factory he wants to work and earn money. If laxity can nevertheless be felt there, this is because the work is still not organized well enough, the supply of components and spare parts is still inadequate, and this in itself loosens discipline.

[Medveczky] Why has work discipline deteriorated in recent years? After all, conditions were not much better in earlier times. Why has it deteriorated?

[Gaspar] There are many reasons for this. First, there is the cause uncovered by the party congress, which was mentioned at the congress and about which we have spoken since; namely, that a significant portion of people are greatly irritated by the fact that in the past few years prices have risen at the pace they did and the cost of living increased.

The real value of pensions has fallen. Holiday opportunities today are also worse than they were a few years ago. Union branch meetings are currently taking place where, interestingly, often the number one item raised is the fall in holiday opportunities. So this is one side of the question. The other side is when the people who bear the heaviest burden -- that is, workers at new industrial estates, workers of large enterprises -- found that their cost of living had increased and significant sections of the population maintained an ostentatious life-style. This today is more irritating than the fact that their own cost of living has increased. This does not have a very positive effect on work discipline, either, and this must be recognized. There are also some factors, such as lack of organization and something else that in the older days used to be called cooperation -- contract discipline has also deteriorated. Because every factory strives for profits, they know they ought to supply under contract a certain product to another factory, at a fixed price, because that had been agreed at the beginning of the year. But they find a better market opportunity and sell their goods elsewhere without batting an eyelid. Where there is profit it benefits both the factory and the work collective because it provides funds for wage increases and a share of the profit. So these are the things that must be regulated in conjunction with increasing the independence of factories, which is very good and necessary and must be continued. But some things must be regulated, not by administrative means, but they must be regulated.

[Medveczky] In this conversation social values have already been touched upon several times. One important aspect of this topic is the principles of sharing in accordance with the work done and distributing in accordance with needs. So how are these principles expressed now in practice, and in this respect what changes will the next years bring in your opinion?

[Gaspar] In my judgement -- and this is a very personal opinion, but based on facts nevertheless -- it appears that our possibilities will be slightly better in the coming years. More specifically we may, perhaps, be able to increase the national income to a greater extent. In other words, material opportunities will be greater. Industrial production will increase somewhat with respect to the past year or two, so the economy will have a bit more dynamism and development. Therefore we shall have greater possibilities for technological development and for shaping living standards, for improvement of certain categories of pensions, not in general, but for those who need it most. Social measures are also needed here, and will be needed. So in my judgement our circumstances will be better and social movement will be a bit stronger in all walks of life. We shall not live without problems, we must accept this fact for a longer term, but our opportunities will be better.

I did not want to list all the items the congress exposed and we also mentioned. Apart from the social strata already mentioned there is the case of young people setting out in their careers and the problem of housing. We have a clear vision of this also, there is an endeavor to create some more subsidized housing. And we must also examine -- this is my personal opinion -- how we could stimulate even better private housebuilding and how we could help young people get homes of their own.

[Medveczky] How else could we end this conversation than by talking about the elections and the congress for which the trade unions are preparing. It is not difficult to predict that all this will be accompanied by a great deal of social and political interest and expectations. At what stage are you in your preparations?

[Gaspar] We have taken all the necessary measures. The electoral process has begun and more than 70 percent of the union representatives have been elected. Our experiences so far show that these elections are taking place with a great deal of activity and in a very critical atmosphere. Every basic question is sincerely and openly mentioned. These elections serve two purposes: First, the representative gives an account of the work carried out. Second, the membership, by taking part in the election, gives instructions, and voices its demands of the trade union very firmly, but with sincerity and from the inside, and with the intention of improving things.

We have introduced a new feature -- we have let the membership decide whether to utilize the opportunity to elect via secret ballot or not. We have recommended it, but we do not prescribe things from above. The membership of the Hungarian trade union movement is a mature membership. It knows what methods can be applied, when and where. At some workplaces 70 percent of the elections were by secret ballot, in some others this figure was only 15-20 percent. The general turnover of representatives is about 25-30 percent. The experience gathered so far -- we do not yet have a precise survey -- show that the members have elected very good representatives. This is the first point

We are now preparing for further elections, and of course for the congress of the Hungarian trade unions. Those who want to effect changes must change themselves. Many methods have become outdated in the trade union movement as well. We must make a reappraisal, not by (?discarding) and stamping out the old methods. Perhaps this is how it used to be done but in the future other ways must be found. To mention just a few of these:

First, the trade union movement must be made much more structured, i.e. we cannot have such a uniform system in which everything, from the National Council of the Trade Unions right down to the shop steward, is treated exactly the same way. No. The representation of interests belongs to the sphere of the National Council of Trade Unions. The organizations in the various industrial sectors and branches must obtain a much greater degree of independence. The National Council of Trade Unions must perform more specified tasks, in a deeper, more concrete manner which should be freer of bureaucracy. In this partnership the Hungarian trade union movement also became -- how shall I put it -- not just looser but also more diluted. We have many opportunities here to devote much more attention than heretofore to the trade union branches because the scope of branches is widened by the fact that factories are independent. Many issues have to be resolved at the factory and workplace. The trade union movement has prepared for this.

All the signs indicate that worthy and knowledgeable cadres have been elected already in the current process. And if we do all these things and prepare ourselves then I think the Hungarian trade union movement can prepare an institution for performing the greater tasks. This will be needed because although I judge the forthcoming years will be better than the ones now behind us we shall still not be without work and shall not be bored. We shall have to work hard, think and ponder, but always remaining firmly on the ground and not cutting ourselves off from real life.

[Medveczky] I would like to ask you to sum up very briefly what you expect from the 25th trade union congress?

[Gaspar] What I expect is that we can stand up to the social demand that the trade union movement should voice its tasks for the next 4 to 5 years in an up-to-date manner which will stand the test of time.

I cannot imagine anything better than this. Our aim and our endeavor is that we should also represent the interests of the country with our aims and endeavors, and to also safeguard the interests of the workers and to represent them so that we can create the best possible harmony. Let us make the work of the trade unions even more authentic and more operational. This is all I can say.

[Medveczky] Thank you for coming here to answer our questions.

KARPOLYI ADDRESSES COAL SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES

LD121004 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Attila Balint report on 11 October Parliament House National Assembly session proceedings; recorded remarks by Industry Minister Laszlo Kapolyi contained within quotation marks]

[Excerpt] The economy's tasks, enterprise management, and all things reflected in the palpable improvement in living standards and as a condition of it: These were the topics deputies continued to discuss today on the basis of the government program presented yesterday. At the moment Zoltan Kiraly, Csongrad County deputy, is speaking. This morning the first to speak was Laszlo Kapolyi, minister of industry. I will now play back a recording of that part of his speech which concerns a good many people and which affects the population very keenly in these pre-winter months; his thoughts about the present and future prospects of coal mining:

"Esteemed National Assembly, I would like to speak in particular about the population's coal supply and in this connection about the situation of coal mining. Compared to recent years the population's demand has increased by nearly 1 million metric tons, and there is a great shortage of coal, especially in northern and eastern Hungary, as well as in the Alfold. To end this situation, the government and the coal mining industry have taken several measures: We are importing 1 million metric tons more coal; we will produce 5.2 million metric tons of coal for the population; and the coal mining industry will make up its coal production backlog by 15 November."

"I agree with the point raised by Comrade Jozsef Nagy, but I would like to stress that the current problems facing the coal mining industry go back over several years. After two oil price explosions we had no other course than to maximize the exploitation of coal production possibilities. By the start of the Sixth 5-Year Plan we had to reach the production level which we had originally prescribed for the end of the plan period. In this way we managed to reduce the country's annual mineral oil consumption by 2 million metric tons. This naturally led to disproportions, such as the backlog in the exploitation of coal assets. There is no other alternative even today than the development of the rational extent of domestic coal mining, since the cost of importing coal is over 50 percent more than the cost of domestic coal production."

VOTER TURNOUT, REACTION TO SEJM ELECTIONS 13 OCT

Jaruzelski, Leaders Cast Votes

LD132207 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1105 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpt] For over 6 hours elections to the Sejm have been in progress in Poland. In the morning, representatives of the highest state and party authorities -- Wojciech Jaruzelski, Henryk Jablonski, Roman Malinowski, Tadeusz Witold Mlynczak, Jan Dobraczynski, Zenon Komender, Kazimierz Morawski, and Zbigniew Zielinski cast their votes.

Urban Updates Voter Turnout

LD132116 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1953 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Statement by Polish Government Spokesman Jerzy Urban on status of Sejm elections, given at the Interpress Center in Warsaw; date not specified -- recorded]

[Text] I have data that came in between 1500 at 1600 GMT. It is, of course, estimated data. By that time in Warsaw, nearly half of those entitled to vote did so: about half in Krakow; over 50 percent in the city of Wroclaw; about 60 percent in the voivodship of Wroclaw; and 54 percent in Poznan.

As regards such voivodships as Bielsko, Chelm, Konin, Pila, and Sieradz, over 70 percent of individuals voted; in Leszno Voivodship, nearly 80 percent; in Gdansk Voivodship, over 50 percent; in Katowice, over 50 percent; and in Lublin Voivodship, about 57 percent.

Before lunch, regarding information that came in earlier, about 1,500 priests and over 900 nuns voted, and I am only mentioning the Catholic priests.

A curious event also occurred: In the polling place of District Number 8 in Szczecinki, the Bialystok Voivodship, a child was born during the voting. [laughter] The name of the mother is Leontyna Antoniak; it is her third child. The child was born before the ambulance arrived. I am reporting this since Western correspondents are interested in disruptions to the electoral process. [laughter]

As regards participation of the clergy, many instances of their positive behavior were observed. For instance, a few parish priests gave assistance in the morning in equipping the polling places -- this concerns assistance with flowers, carpets, and so on. In one of the parishes, all the priests, accompanied by a band of musicians, went to the polling place after mass.

A good voting turnout of the clergy and senior priests of non-Catholic and other churches has been observed. We also have negative facts although there are really just two: After the holy masses in Nowa Huta and in Gdansk held by Father Jankowski, a minority of those gathered in church attempted to organize some sort of provocative demonstrations. They dispersed quickly. As regards Nowa Huta, those attempts or excesses that took place were dominated by youngsters from sixth and seventh school forms, those born in 1970-1972.

Reports are coming in on the end of the voting at Polish diplomatic offices. They came from 12 countries; from Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Ethiopia, Australia, Japan, and Shanghai in the People's Republic of China. So far, as regards voter attendance abroad, it was on the average; 91 percent. In socialist countries, up to 1400 GMT, the attendance varied between 73.6 percent in Hungary to 93 percent of those Poles entitled to vote in Bulgaria.

Urban on Turnout Implications

LD140227 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2301 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Statement by Polish Government Spokesman Jerzy Urban on Sejm elections made at Interpress Center in Warsaw on 13 October -- recorded]

[Text] It appears that the election results will be better than the results of the people's councils elections held last year . It is not yet known, however, exactly how much better. The boycott has been boycotted. Society has approached the matter of elections rationally, free of the criticism that was and is being expressed, criticism often shared by the authorities who are aware of the shortcomings of life in our country. However, by and large society has been united on the ultimate issues which concern most Polish citizens. As for an internal assessment of the election, it boils down to the acknowledgement by the great majority of poeple of the stability of the system, the value of the socialist system -- also the sociomoral value -- and the fact that the system cannot be undermined in Poland. General approval of the political line of the state's leadership has been expressed -- that is, to implement the resolutions of the ninth congress and its program of socialist renewal. The majority of voters have expressed their support for order; they value it greatly. They disapprove of efforts to undermine and disturb it, considering them to be in opposition to the wishes of the decisive and overwhelming majority of the people.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, the elections signify a confirmation of the determination of the great majority of people to consolidate the security of our country and its territorial integrity, including the permanence of its borders. This means that there is approval for our foreign policy that has stood the test for 40 years, for Poland's alliances, and for our policy involving our constant readiness to maintain good relations with all countries.

Finally, the estimated turnout, despite the boycott, reflects the discarding of revanchism and revisionism.

All these trends have helped us to achieve this election result. It would be good if all politicians in the West who support a policy of restrictions and aggressive propaganda would draw conclusions from the assessment I am making, and if the Western mass media would draw conclusions from these observations. We do not treat the elections first and foremost as a trial of strength, although the opposition attempted to impose this view of the elections by announcing its boycott. First and foremost we view elections as proof of our intentions, or as proof of the approval of our intentions and proof of society's growing trust of our policy. The election results which are taking shape are, however, first of all, an obligation for the future Sejm and government that will emerge from it to prove through action that our policy will continue along the same lines, the lines of renewal and accord, and that we will struggle to the extent necessary against everything that distrubs the positive processes in Poland.

Urban on Vote Counting

LD122152 Warsaw PAP in English 2000 GMT 12 Oct 85

[By Waldemar Janiec and Janusz Zaleski; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 12 -- "The underground has announced its own count of voter turnout. Therefore, I want to present how votes are counted, and assess the methods which the underground is going to apply," Government Spokesman Minister Jerzy Urban told a news conference for foreign journalists here today on the eve of the elections to the Polish Sejm (Parliament).

Having presented the rules of work of the electoral commissions, especially the counting of the votes, by Head of the Chancellery of the Council of State Minister Jerzy Breitkopf, Urban recalled that nearly 260 thousand people of all walks of life will take part in the work.

He said it would be impossible to issue directions on the work to be done by several hundred thousand people, and to keep it secret.

"Besides," Urban added, "the latest elections to people's council have shown that voters have wide possibilities to check the results of the elections and have a right to protest them before a respective court.

Addressing the Western correspondents at the conference, the spokesman said:

"Some of you will write that the results of the elections in Poland will have been rigged. Therefore, I would like to ask whether anybody has any idea of a possibility or technique by which these results could possibly be rigged?

The question went unanswered.

"The instructions' formulae of converting the results of the five-minute observations (into voter turnout data) are correct," Urban said, but noted that the "outcome of the operations cannot be correct, as the data used for the calculation would be wrong owing to neglect of the principle of representativeness and lack of access to complete lists of voters.

He said that according to experts the error one can make using the underground's techniques may amount to as much (?as 70) percent.

"Taking account of the nemerous errors and optionalities in the calculation adopted by the underground, one can say that the technique may produce any results, that is, that the result may be tailored to fit pre-conceived vision or hopes for the counting and that it may be freely modified," the spokesman said.

Assessing the value of vote count techniques proposed by oppositional groups, the government press spokesman said the underground had issued two instructions on the issue, and added that they had been given over to experts at the TV public opinion polling centre (OBOP) and the Central Statistical Office (GUS), to assess their value from the point of view of the methodology of sociological research and the results of statistics.

The technique proposed by the underground consists in tentative estimation of voter turnout on the basis of random, five-minute observations of the number of people entering selected polling stations.

"In our opinion, those who have launched this action realize that the calculations are worthless. They are people who assume in advance that they will achieve no adequate results, but still apply these techniques to exert certain psychological pressure on voters," the government spokesman said, adding that the point of it all was to tell voters that the underground would be watching who was going to the polls.

"Besides, the use of the techniques provides an alibi to opponents of the elections, which is aimed to give credibility to the charge they are sure to make that the authorities will have rigged the election results," Urban said.

Asked about assessment of an anti-election campaign waged by the underground, Minister Urban said it was unscrupulous.

"I do not expect the leaflet campaign, which has indeed stepped up in the last few days, to have any major influence on what the majority of voters will do," he said, adding that some 74 percent of those eligible to vote have checked their names on the voter lists.

He also denied Western journalists' claims that access to the electoral commissions and their members had been hampered this year, saying that directions in this regard were the same as during last year's elections to people's councils.

Solidarity on Vote Counting

HK130836 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 13 (AFP) -- Polish voters began going to the polls today, as both the government and the Solidarity union watched booths to determine the victor in the election's only real contest -- turnout. Solidarity has led a campaign to boycott the elections, which it has denounced as "nothing but a farce". It has pledged to watch polling booths carefully and issue its own voter participation figures, as, it says, the government is likely to inflate them. The government, which scheduled the vote as part of its "normalization" process, is predicting a turnout of at least 75 per cent. It has responded to Solidarity's boycott campaign both with a wave of detainments and an attempt to discredit the union's poll monitoring methods. Yesterday, as officials detained such Solidarity leaders as Jacek Kuron, Janusz Onyskiewicz, and Zbigniew Romaszewski, the government spokesman, Jerzy Urban, said the union's turnout figures would have a margin of error of 15 to 60 percent. Polls opened today at 5 a.m. and were to close at 10 p.m.

At a press conference, Mr Urban said a group of government experts had found serious flaws in Solidarity's use of random five-minute samples from each polling district to determine turnout. Solidarity said it would feed these samples, culled throughout the day, into a computer, and supplement the findings with estimations from clandestine Solidarity members who had infiltrated election commissions. Mr Urban acknowledged that Solidarity had found "specialists" to evaluate the computer calculations, but added that the method on which the calculations would be based "was completely false, based on incomplete data from which the emotional factor is not absent." Solidarity responded that it system has been proven reliable elsewhere, and noted that it would be monitored by independent experts. It also has accused the government of using the detainments as an attempt to cripple its monitoring efforts.

Mr Onyskiewicz, 47, a former national spokesman for Solidarity, was held for three hours yesterday, and officials tried to dissuade him from gathering turnout data, Solidarity sources said. Mr Kuron, 51, founder of the Social Self-Defence Committee, or KOR, and Mr Romaszewski, 44, former official in Solidarity's underground radio network, were also held for several hours.

A large number of other detainments were also reported. Sixteen persons suspected of links with the banned union were detained or questioned between Tuesday [8 October] and yesterday in the northern port of Gdynia, three of them while they were carrying a pig painted in red and bearing appeals for the boycott. In nearby Gdansk, 12 Solidarity leaders were put under arrest for having distributed pro-boycott leaflets. Officials said they would be held for three months. In addition, two workers at the Gdansk shipyards, where Solidarity got its start five years ago, were detained and beaten by police, according to their families. Detainments involving several dozen people were also reported in Warsaw, Szczechin, Koszalin, Krakow and Lodz. Mr Urban acknowledged that the arrests had resulted from the "intensification of the boycott campaign", but did not give details on the number of people detained or the charges against them. Mr Walesa, the Solidarity leader, vowed that the government crackdown would not affect the union's turnout monitoring effort. The turnout is the only matter in doubt here, as the government controls the candidacies.

In the vote for the Diet, there are 50 "national" candidates, all government-approved and unopposed, and regional lists for the 410 other seats. Although the regional seats are being contested, the two candidates for each seat generally either belong to the communist party or to a new group that is closely linked to it, the Patriotic Movement for National Reconciliation. There is only a handful of independents, who are also government-approved.

First results are expected to be issued at 0200 GMT Monday [14 October].

Walesa: 45-47 Percent Turnout

HK141234 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 14 (AFP) -- Between 45 and 47 percent of Polish voters turned out for the legislative elections, Lech Walesa, leader of the outlawed Solidarity trade union, which called for a boycott, claimed today. Government spokesman Jerzy Urban has already claimed a victory over the Solidarity boycott, announcing overnight that the poll was much higher than the 75 percent official figure for local government elections last year. The official results are not to be announced before tomorrow, according to the press here.

Mr Urban told a conference at the closing of the polls last night, "the boycott has been boycotted." Mr Walesa said as polling started that he expected more than 50 percent of voters in Gdansk, his hometown and birthplace of the Solidarity movement, to observe the boycott. Mr Walesa said in Gdansk today that the poll was 45-47 percent in Gdansk itself and 45 percent in Wroclaw, southwest Poland. The results were neither a vote "for or against the government," he said. "They neither strengthen nor weaken the credibility of anyone, but they gave an indication of the percentage of the population which has stopped being passive."

More than 26 million Polish citizens over 18 years we called upon to vote for a new parliament of 460 deputies in which according to official figures, the Polish Communist Party has a 54 percent majority.

Mr Urban admitted yesterday that "the majority of priests did not vote" adding that "the offer of good relations with the Roman Catholic Church in Poland remains valid." He said he was convinced that the vote meant that Polish society had approved "the programme of socialist renewal (...) and foreign policy and alliances made 40 years ago."

At the last legislative elections in March, 1980, the official poll was given as 98.87 percent. After last year's local government elections at which Solidarity also called for a boycott, the official turnout was given as 75 percent while Solidarity put the figure at nearer 60 percent. Solidarity however claimed that they had forced the government to change the traditonal figure of 98 to 100 percent poll, commonly quoted until then in Poland as in other Eastern European countries.

Elections took place this time in a generally quiet atmosphere except in two Solidarity bastions of Gdansk and Nowa-Huta, the industrial suburb of Krakow. During clashes in Nowa-Huta stones were thrown at police by "some 200 hooligans and punks, some of whom were 12 years old," leading to injuries and an unspecified number of arrests, the authorities said. According to Solidarity sources about 200 civilians, wearing arm-bands in Polish colours attacked a procession which formed behind the Solidarity emblem after a mass. In Gdansk some 2,000 Solidarity supporters shouted anti-election slogans but were dispersed by riot police as they attempted to start a procession from the parish church of St Bridget, near the Lenin naval shipyards.

Urban Counters Walesa's Figures

LD142158 Warsaw PAP in English 1700 GMT 14 Oct 85

[By Leszek Kubiak and Miroslav Wewski]

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 14 -- During today's press conference for foreign and Polish journalists, the Polish Government spokesman, Minister Jerzy Urban announced that according to estimates over 20 million Poles out of about 26 million eligible had cast their votes in the country's parliamentary elections yesterday, and added that in last year's election to local people's councils 19 million 380 thousand voters took part.

Minister Urban said that according to provisional data from 29 voivodships over 79 percent of the electorate has cast their votes.

The government spokesman went on to say that according to unofficial data about 83 percent of eligible voters voted in the Bydgoszcz Voivodship, 83 percent in the Ciechanow Voivodship, 76 percent in the Elblag Voivodship, 70 percent in the Gdansk Voivodship, 79 percent in the Katowice Voivodship, [figures indistinct] in the Nowy Sacz Voivodship, 78 percent in the Poznan Voivodship; [figures indistinct] percent in the Wroclaw Voivodship, 75 percent in the Torun Voivodship, 87 percent in the Leszno Voivodship.

The government spokesman promised to announce unofficial results of the elections at tomorrow's press conference noting that official reports will be announced Tuesday evening [15 October] at the earliest.

Urban also declared that according to rough estimates, nearly one quarter of the Roman Catholic Church priests took part in the elections. The turnout of priests of other denominations, however, was high and, on the average, exceeded 90 per cent.

Asked to comment on the figure given by Walesa, according to whom the election turnout had reached only 50 percent, Minister Urban stated that Mr. Walesa had known the result before the elections even started. "These are not serious statements but attempts of a propaganda nature only," Jerzy Urban said.

In his reply to another question, Minister Urban declared that the figure of 78 per cent of those who had cast their vote qualitatively weighed more than the figure of 99 per cent of those who had voted in the elections of 1970. "There seems to be a different age in Poland today, and people go to the polls as a result of their conscious political choice," the government spokesman said.

Jerzy Urban further added that some 22 per cent of those eligible to vote had not taken part in the elections. "The motives of not taking part in voting are various. Surely, there is a certain number of citizens, who are not interested in the sphere of public life. Surely, there is a certain group of citizens who are against our policy. But they make up an insignificant part of this 22 per cent. For sure, various political activists of the underground will claim that this 22 per cent stands for people who had obeyed the boycott call. This reasoning is obviously based on the appropriation of a significant number of souls not affiliated in politically extreme trends hostile to our policy," Minister Urban said.

U.S. Media Contradict Facts

LD142125 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Correspondent Maksymilian Berezowski report from Washington]

[Text] American reports on the Sejm elections are numerous and mostly internally divided. They comment on the high election turnout, but there is an impression that it has obviously disappointed them. American reporters try to weaken the significance of the facts by referring to supporters of the election boycott in Poland, although they indirectly admit that it flopped. Many American pre- and post-election dispatches emphasized the significance of the high turnout for political stabilization in Poland and for the international position of Poland. That is why questioning the mass election attendance or looking for pejorative factors that contradict obvious facts are in fact attempts to mislead American public opinion about the real distribution of forces, feelings, and the political situation in Poland.

A report in the otherwise serious WASHINGTON POST, which attributed the high turnout to the alleged terrorizing of voters without giving any facts is, however, worthy of attention. If someone glanced through more than one paper, he could read in THE NEW YORK TIMES and Baltimore's SUN, that the case is just the opposite: Nobody had such fears. However, very few Americans read more than one paper.

Dissidents Held, Questioned

AU131820 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Warsaw, Oct 13 (AFP) -- Government opponents Jacek Kuron, 51, and Zbigniew Romaszewski, 44, who signed the boycott call by 100 ex-Solidarity leaders, were questioned by police today for the second day in a row and then released, they told AGENCE FRANCE -- PRESSE. Mr. Romaszewski said he was questioned about "public statements," including those made to the Western press.

Mr. Kuron, founder of the social Self-Defence Committee, KOR, said he was questioned about Tadeusz Jedynak, a former member of the Solidarity underground leadership who was arrested in June, and about Marian Zakrzewski, the stone mason who sculpted the tomb of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the priest murdered by the Polish secret police. Mr. Zakrzewski was attacked in August, according to opposition sources.

Many ex-Solidarity leaders had been either arrested or questioned at the end of last week as boycott leaflets proliferated. Two workers at Gdansk were detained and beaten by police, relatives said.

The Roman Catholic Church was maintaining a guarded attitude, and most of its bishops were expected not to vote, folllowing the example of Cardinal-Primate Jozef Glemp, who was today at the Vatican. The new Diet, or parliament, was being elected from a list of candidates screened by the Patriotic Movement for National Revivial (PRON), grouping parties and organisations close to the government.

Youth Protests at Polling Place

LD131926 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] For several days the so-called Radio Free Europe has been calling for brawls, pointing out the specific places they were to be organized. Many times the slogan was heard: The Ark will sail at eleven. The Ark [Arka] is a well-known church in Nowa Huta. Those who were the recipients of instructions from Munich chickened out and pushed youngsters, children, into the streets.

Today, at about 1200 GMT, in Nowa Huta, a group of young people, ranging mostly from 13 to 16 years old, gathered in the vicinity of the church. Near the polling station, national flags were torn down and destroyed. Stones and petards were thrown. In order to restore calm, some of the participants of the protest had to be detained. Among them were a dozen or so adolescents. Following talks held with them and their parents, at the order of the head of the Internal Affairs Office in Krakow, all adolescents were freed and remanded into the custody of their parents. Those who encouraged the children to destroy the Polish national flags have thus deprived themselves of the right to speak about patriotism and have profaned their Polish character.

U.S. USES 'KIDNAPPERS' METHODS ON EGYPT AIRLINER

LD112151 Warsaw PAP in English 2102 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 11 -- The intervention of American fighters acting on orders from President Reagan dashed the confidential accord reached via the Egyptians between the PLO headquarters in Tunis and the Italian government.

The United States does not care about the fact that by giving orders to intercept the Egyptian airliner and kidnap the kidnappers, it itself employs the kidnappers' methods, instead of acting as a state which shares responsibility for international rule of law.

It is a saddening fact that the official American enunciations on the intercept operation over the Mediterranean are marked by arrogance of a power blinded by its might, or even by pride of success in outsmarting those who had intended to punish the terrorists under the Palestinian jurisdiction, as earlier agreed.

No one sympathizes with the terrorists, but neither must one applaud the meting out of justice in a manner contravening the established legal norms.

The wheels of terror are thus grinding on. It is worth recalling that they had got another accelerating kick not on Oct. 7, when the Italian cruise liner was kidnapped, but on Oct. 1, when the Israeli aircraft raided the PLO headquarters in Tunis, killing 60 and wounding more than 100 people. When it happened, the United States did not even think of taking in its hands justice against Israel. On the contrary, it praised the raid.

EX-DETAINEES CALL FOR 'POLITICAL PRISONER WEEK'

HK140246 Hong Kong AFP in English 0236 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Warsaw, Oct 14 (AFP) -- Former detainees called here Sunday for observance of "political prisoner week" throughout Poland November 3-10 to draw attention to ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience here. The Council of Ex-Internees Under Martial Law issued its call during a monthly mass celebrated on the first Sunday after the 13th -- echoing the imposition of martial law on December 13, 1981.

The organizers, speaking from the altar to a congregation of 1,500 people at the Church of St Joseph, said that human rights were "constantly violated" in Poland, where some detainees were beaten and others were held for many months without trial. The council, which quoted independent sources as fixing the current number of political prisoners in Poland at 291, complained that parliament had refused to recognize the status of political prisoners despite the receipt of many petitions signed by thousands of Poles.

At the end of the mass, several hundred people cheered Solidarity, the banned free trade union, before dispersing. Police looked on but did not intervene.

PPR, SFRY SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT FOR 1986-90

LD130128 Warsaw PAP in English 2048 GMT 12 Oct 85

[By PAP correspondent Tadeusz Sapocinski]

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 12 (PAP) -- Poland and Yugoslavia signed a trade agreement in the Yugoslav capital today which provides for mutual deliveries of goods in the years 1986-90 worth nearly five billion dollars, 60 per cent more than between 1981-85.

Poland's Foreign Trade Minister Tadeusz Nestorowicz signed the document on behalf of the Polish side. Yugoslavia was represented by Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade Milenko Bojanic.

Also today, both countries signed trade protocol for 1986, under which the Polish-Yugoslav trade will increase next year by 15 per cent, landing at more than 900 million dollars.

Minister Nestorowicz met with Member of the Yugoslav Government Spasoye Medenica, who is also co-chairman of the Polish-Yugoslav Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CEAUSESCU'S PRC VISIT

Ceausescu, Hu Yaobang Meet

AU111857 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1807 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Beijing, AGERPRES 11/10/85 -- Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP general secretary, president of Romania, met again, on October 11, with Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party.

They discussed problems of common interest in a friendly atmosphere.

Nicolae Ceausescu and Hu Yaobang expressed their satisfaction at the fruitful Romanian-Chinese summit dialogue, their conviction that the understandings reached laid a solid foundation for the more powerful many-sided development, in future too, of the general political relations, of the economic and technico-scientific collaboration, of the cooperation of the two countries in the international life.

Hu Yaobang Hosts Dinner

AU111856 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1809 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Beijing, AGERPRES 11/10/85 -- Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party, gave a dinner, on October 11, in honour of Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP, president of Romania, and of Mme Elena Ceausescu.

During the dinner the Romanian-Chinese summit dialogue continued, Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu conversing most cordially with Hu Yaobang.

Pinca, Chen Muhua Sign Accord

AU112013 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1853 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Beijing, AGERPRES 11/10/85 -- Ion Dinca, Romanian first deputy prime minister, and Mme Chen Muhua, state counsellor, signed, in Beijing, an accord between the Romanian Government and the Chinese Government on the development of bilateral economic relations over 1986-1990, a long-term accord between the two governments on the major goods exchanges over 1986-1990, as well as other agreements on the expansions of economic relations between the two countries.

During the visit by President Nicolae Ceausescu, working meetings were held, in keeping with the indications set during the summit dialogue.

During the talks between the Romanian and Chinese cochairmen of the Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation -- Ion Dinca, first deputy prime minister, and Mme Chen Muhua, state counsellor -- possibilities were discussed regarding the expansion and deepening of cooperation in various fields, with a view to setting new tangible measures to capitalize the two countries' growing economic potential.

The foreign ministers of the two countries, Stefan Andrei and Wu Xuequian, also conducted talks during which they approached a series of current international issues falling within Romania's and China's wish to intensify their collaboration internationally.

ANDREI SPEECH TO 'GROUP OF 77' MEETING

AU071455 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 3 Oct 85 p 6

[Report on speech by Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei to New York meeting of The Group of 77 on 2 October]

[Text] Taking the floor at the Group of 77 meeting, Stefan Andrei, our country's minister of foreign affairs, presented the profoundly realistic analysis made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the SR of Romania, regarding the current situation of international economic relations. He also presented our party and state leader's concept on tangible means of action to overcome existing difficulties in the international economic and financial system, to appropriately resolve the serious problems confronting the developing countries, restructure the current inequitable economic and trade relations between countries, and to establish a new world economic order and a better and more just world.

The international economic situation, the speaker stressed, continues to worsen. The gap between rich and poor countries is widening. The world economic crisis that is reflected in all states, to a greater or lesser extent, strongly affects the developing countries. The developing countries' situation has worsened as never before as a result of the restrictive policy promoted by international trade and the profoundly inequitable policy in international financial relations.

Inordinately high interests rates, the multiplication of protectionist obstacles, restrictions to imports from developing countries, and especially the enormous burden of foreign debts prevent both the resumption of improving people's standard of living and the ensurance of important investments in those countries, including their economic growth.

The intensification of the arms race and increase in military expenditures, which fall heavily on the shoulders of all peoples, divert huge financial, scientific-technological resources, and trained cadres from productive goals, and from support for the efforts of developing countries.

A deadlock still persists in all forums for negotiations on international economic issues, foreign debts, the elimination of underdevelopment and gaps, and for establishing a new order, the speaker said. Moreover, we are witnessing the disquietening tendency by some developed countries to cause a deterioration of the multilateral economic cooperation system and to avoid the framework of the United Nations to examine and resolve the complex problems of international economic relations. Multilateral cooperation more and more is replaced by bilateral deals and the policy promoted by international financial bodies which, in fact, pursue the political and economic interests of the developed countries. The various criteria promoted by some developed countries to differentiate the treatment applied to developing countries contribute to setting them at variance and to hampering them in their efforts to establish a common platform of action with the aim of equitably and justly resolving the major problems of North-South cooperation.

The goals of the international development strategy are far from being implemented. The majority of developed countries have not made their contribution to the adoption of the necessary measures for applying this strategy.

In this regard, the speaker presented President Nicolae Ceausescu's assessment, according to which one must now understand that resolving the problems of the developing countries and establishing a new world economic order are priorities for overcoming the economic crisis and for the stability and development of the world economy.

The speaker then stressed the comprehensive nature of the problems of world economic cooperation and emphasized the need for general solutions worked out with the participation of all states and within universal international forums of a broad democratic nature.

In the opinion of our country and its president, the Romanian foreign minister continued, only an urgent and realistic dialogue within the United Nations between the developed and the developing countries -- on the basis of the experience of the Law of the Sea Conference -- will be able to place the general development of the world economy on a secure and stable foundation. The following factors should be kept in mind: This dialogue should be carried out at a sustained rate until appropriate settlements have been reached with the collective and responsible desire to seek effective and general advantageous solutions; the development of the developing countries should be relaunched; the burden of foreign debts should be eliminated; a new long-term economic order should be established, and underdevelopment should be eliminated.

The current session of the UN General Assembly represents a proper framework of action for this.

The speaker stressed that the documents of the Luanda conference of the nonaligned countries specify universal negotiations in two stages would be the most important and comprehensive effort to restructure current international economic relations. He stressed that everything must be done to reactivate dialogue and relaunch these negotiations without delay. He reaffirmed Romania's proposal to act toward convening an international conference under UN aegis that should discuss this problem contributing to overcoming the current deadlock and initiating and bringing about a tangible process of establishing interstate economic relations on new, equitable, and just bases. Our country's foreign minister stated that we also support the proposal on adopting a program of immediate measures in areas of particular importance for developing countries, including convening an international conference on monetary-financial issues linked to development. In our view, what is very obvious in the monetary-financial field are the contradictions of the current inequitable system of international economic relations and the resistance to what is new and to changes on the part of the developed countries. The problem of foreign debts not only reflects this inequity, it is also one of the main obstacles in achieving a new international economic order.

After he spoke about certain practices of developed countries and of the IMF regarding the problem of foreign debts and the granting of credits which impose unacceptable conditions and seriously affect the interests of developing countries, the speaker stressed, that being a universal issue, the problem of the foreign debts of developing countries must be settled through a universal solution. Its political scope must be recognized as must the need to deal with it within the broader framework of concerns for the stability of currencies in international trade and for the international financing system.

In President Nicolae Ceausescu's view, the speaker stressed, the task of an international conference on financial-monetary issues would be to agree on a set of principles incorporated in a universal solution that should then be a guideline in negotiations between governments and between banks from credit countries and institutions of the international financial system on the one hand, and each debit country on the other. The speaker added that our country believes that it is necessary to cancel foreign debts for certain countries and reduce them for other countries to radically reduce interest rates, to achieve a long-term rescheduling -- 15-20 years -- and to establish a 10-15 percent ceiling on export returns for foreign debt rates. Romania, the speaker continued, also advocates the reform of the international financial-monetary system and shows great concern over ensuring a correlation in monetary, trade, and financial issues, so that the policies adopted will harmoniously complement each other, instead of showing differences and having a baneful influence on the development process and on international economic cooperation.

The speaker then presented our country's position on existing problems in international trade. He stressed that it is necessary to make great efforts to eliminate the protectionist policy, restrictive measures, and discriminatory practices and to facilitate the access of exports from developing countries to the markets of the developed countries by reducing customs charges and nontariff obstacles.

We firmly speak out, the speaker continued, against the use of economic relations as a means of economic and political pressure. We believe that the United Nations should call on states resorting to such practices to renounce blockade, embargo, and sanctions policies and any measures that are incompatible with the UN Charter and the Charter on the states' economic rights and duties. Such measures must be adopted to increase economic cooperation and trust in international relations.

Romania supports the beginning of preparations for a new round of multilateral negotiations within GATT that should appropriately deal with the specific problems of developing countries, and it advocates the continuation of activities within UNCTAD to prevent the harmful consequences of the exodus of qualified cadres from developing countries to industrial countries in order to finally achieve a framework of cooperation with the participation of as many countries as possible, the speaker said.

The problems that will confront our countries in the near future and in the long run, both in negotiations with the developed countries and as concerns strengthening their economic cooperation and collective autonomy, are very complex, the Romanian minister said. Taking this into account as well as the need to strengthen our unity and solidarity and our negotiating capability in the North-South dialogue, we want to reiterate the proposal to convene an international conference of developing countries at the summit level, following an appropriate preparation for it and in cooperation with the "Group of 77" and the countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

In conclusion, our country's foreign minister stressed that the Romanian delegation will act to finalize the positive results of the proceedings of the ministerial meeting of the "Group of 77" and will cooperate actively with the other members of that group to promote the common interests of developing countries at the 40th session of the UN General Assembly.

MUHAMMAD 'ABBAS ACTIVITIES, STATEMENTS IN SFRY

U.S. Warrant Issued

AU122145 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The United States has issued a warrant for the arrest of Muhammad 'Abbas, head of the Palestinian Liberation Front, who is known as 'Abu al-'Abbas, and it has requested the Italian authorities to arrest him and to hand him over. 'Abbas was on board the Egyptian airplane which the U.S. fighters forced to land in Sicily.

REUTER reports that the Americans are requesting 'Abbas' extradition for piracy, conspiracy, and because it is believed that he was the leader of the entire hijacking of the Italian ship.

At the moment 'Abbas, together with the members of the crew of the Italian plane, is in Rome.

Departs Italy for SFRY

AU121930 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Rome, Oct 12 (AFP) -- As police continued interrogating the accused hijackers of the liner Achille Lauro, a Palestinian official who accompanied the pirates aboard a diverted Egyptian Boeing left here today for Belgrade just as Washington issued a warrant for his arrest.

Muhammed 'Abbas, head of Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) faction backing Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat, left with an unidentified person aboard a Yugoslav jetliner bound for Belgrade via Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, airport sources here said.

Mr 'Abbas' departure capped hours of intense diplomatic negotiations here today to decide his fate and that of another Palestinian official and 17 Egyptians who were aboard the Egyptian Boeing-737 forced to land by U.S. Air Force [as received] fighters Thursday night in Sicily.

Earlier in Washington, U.S. Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten said his department had issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr. 'Abbas, charging him with piracy and hostage-taking in connection with Achille Lauro affair. Mr. Korten added that Washington had asked Italy to put Mr. 'Abbas in preventive detention, pending a formal request for his extradition.

In Rome, Egyptian Ambassador Yahya Rif'at -- who reportedly saw Mr. 'Abbas off at the Rome airport -- held two rounds of talks with Italian Government and police officials, including Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

In addition to the four hijackers, Mr. 'Abbas and another Palestinian official who left with him, there were 17 Egyptians -- crew, diplomats and security men -- aboard the plane.

In Tunis, Arab diplomatic sources said Mr. 'Arafat and the Tunis-based Arab League had now lost any illusion about changes in Washington's Mideast policy in the wake of U.S. support for the recent Israeli air raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis and the U.S. interception of the Egyptian plane.

Judicial sources here quoted the four alleged pirates as saying today that they were members of a "suicide commando", which investigators saw as further confirmation that the team's initial plan was to launch a terrorist attack during a port call by the Achille Lauro at Ashdod, Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in Rome confirmed 'Abbas' departure, as did, implicitly, U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Rabb.

Airport sources said the Egyptian plane had been flown this afternoon to civilian Rome-Fliumicino Airport from military Rome-Ciampino, where it arrived last night from Sicily, and was parked next to the JAT plane originally scheduled to take off at 1620 GMT.

Mr. Abbas and the other Palestinians were transferred from the Egyptian Boeing to the JAT plane at 1755 GMT in an Egyptian Airlines car, the sources said.

The Yugoslav plane took off one hour after the United States launched a temporary international arrest warrant against Mr. 'Abbas, who is also a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Mr. 'Abbas had spent the night at the Egyptian Fine Arts Academy in northern Rome, along with most of the 19 passengers and crew of the Boeing 737.

Judiciary sources said Mr. Abbas refused to meet with an Italian examining magistrate investigating the Achille Lauro hijacking, claiming that the Academy building was Egyptian territory. The Italian magistrate wanted to question him on a request from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Arrives in Belgrade

AU122135 Paris AFP in English 2121 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 12 (AFP) -- Muhammad Abu al-'Abbas, a leader of the Palestine Liberation Front who earlier today was allowed to leave Rome after being held in connection with the hijacking of the Achille Lauro, arrived here today.

Mr. 'Abbas was accompanied by another Palestinian official who was with him aboard the Egyptian airliner that also was carrying the four hijackers of the Achille Lauro when it was forced to land in Sicily Thursday [10 October] by U.S. figher planes.

He arrived at the airport here at 2050 GMT aboard a regular JAT Yugoslav Airlines plane and was met by officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization office here. Both men refused to talk to newsmen.

Confirms Ship Not Target

LD131532 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Yasin Rawashdah report]

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Oct (KUNA) -- PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad 'Abbas Zaydan -- Abu al-'Abbas -- says that Palestinian fighters are compelled to use all means and methods to reach the occupied territories, even if this entails traveling on a cloud following the closure of all frontiers in their faces. In an exclusive statement to KUNA at the PLO offices here today, he added that the four young Palestinians who were compelled to hijack the Achille Lauro did not have the ship or the passengers as their target. Their main target, on which they trained their hearts and minds, was the occupied territories. He pointed out that when their plans were discovered while they were 7 hours away from the port of Ashdod in occupied Palestine, they were forced to change them right away and detain the ship so that they would not be detained themselves and handed over to the Israeli authorities. Had they not done so the crew of the Italian ship would have arrested them and handed them over to the authorities at the next port of call, Ashdod.

Abu al-'Abbas, who is the secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, spoke in a statement to KUNA about the circumstances of the hijacking of the Italian ship and said that the four young Palestinians immediately declared to the captain and to the passengers that they were not the target and that they were forced to seize the ship in order to save themselves. The Palestinian official who negotiated with the four hijackers in Egypt reaffirmed that the captain of the Italian ship told him that the young Palestinians treated them well and that they treated the Italian passengers very well in view of Italy's good relations with the PLO.

Abu al-'Abbas added that "the ship's captain and the passengers stressed that no killing had taken place on board the ship and that the Palestinian youths had not harmed anybody. The killing issue had been invented by the Zionist-American information apparatuses to justify the American piratical and terroristic act against the Egyptian civilian airliner that was carrying the Palestinian youths after the problem of the Italian ship had been resolved peacefully."

He stressed that America has this time shown "with all insolence and ugliness that it is the direct enemy of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation after it preveiously used to sometimes hide its face behind Israel." He added that America "has demonstrated that it is the one who is overtly and covertly fighting us, and that Israel is only an advance base for it." Abu al-'Abbas added: "We are satisfied with the fact that America [word indistinct] itself and unmasks itself."

As to how the weapons reached the Italian ship, he said that the weapons reached the Palestinian youths when they were on board the ship and they had not had any weapons at the time they boarded her at the Italian port of Genoa; he did not mention, however, the way the weapons arrived, nor who handed them over or who brought them.

On the rumor that the group that had hijacked the Italian ship belongs to the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF], of which he is the head, he pointed out that two of the group had been PLF members before 1982 and before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

He added that he was commissioned by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to peacefully solve the problem of the ship because "he personally knew some of the hijackers."

As to how the hijacking group was formed, he said that the Palestinian youths previously lived in Europe and that they themselves formed the group with the aim of reaching the occupied territories to carry out a struggle operation.

Abu al-'Abbas said the members of the group had thought about reaching their land by all means and "they had used the Italian ship, or rather they were obliged to use the Italian ship, posing as ordinary passengers, to arrive there." He said the group members had stayed in Italy for at least a month but he did not specify where and did not mention any details about their activity and movements in Italy. He emphasized: "I saw with my own eyes, along with the others who participated in the negotiations in Egypt, that the Palestinian group bade farewell to the captain and the passengers extremely warmly when leaving the Italian ship." He added: "I saw them exchanging kisses myself, and this was proof that the young men did not harm anyone and that their relations with the passengers of the ship were excellent; furthermore, the passengers and the captain demonstrated an understanding of the motivation of the group to survive." He added that "the Palestinians left the ship in a civilized manner."

Abu al-'Abbas also said that the peaceful ending of the hijacking of the Italian ship and the fact that the armed men had treated the passengers well was acknowledged by the captain, all the passengers, and all those who had taken part in the negotiations. He added that the American act of piracy in hijacking the Egyptian airliner last Thursday showed that "the Reagan America was not happy about the peaceful outcome of the operation involving the ship."

In his statement, Abu al-'Abbas praised the Italian people and the Italian Government for its courageous attitude supporting the Palestinian cause and their backing for Palestinian rights. Abu al-'Abbas condemned American arrogance, which is harming even the friends of America, such as Italy and Egypt. He said that the series of recent events points to the flagrant aggression against Italian and Egyptian sovereignty, and American aggression and hatred toward the Palestinian and Arab peoples. He said that the PLO leadership behaved with glorious wisdom and that the efforts of the leadership led to the peaceful resolution of the problem of the Italian ship, and that this has been acknowledged by all. Abu al-'Abbas denied the existence of American-Egyptian collusion in the operation of kidnapping the Egyptian airliner. He pointed out that America imposed upon Egypt's sovereignty and dignity. He praised the Yugoslav Government's acceptance to receive him and welcome him. He said that this is a glorious proof of the warm friendship between the Arab and Yugoslav peoples and another reaffirmation of the independence of the Yugoslav decision. The Palestinian official ended his exclusive statement to KUNA by saying that the Palestinian fighter will in the future create one thousand and one ways to reach his homeland and to struggle over his territory against the ferocious Zionist enemy, and that if the Palestinian fighter has cometimes not succeeded, he would continue in his attempt to succeed in future rounds.

Praises Egypt's 'Positive Role'

NC131557 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Oct (MENA) -- Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu al-'Abbas, leader of the pro-'Arafat wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), has categorically denied the story spread in the United States that the four Palestinians who hijacked the Italian ship Achille Lauro had killed the American tourist suffering from heart disease.

In an exclusive interview with the MENA correspondent in Belgrade, Abu al-'Abbas emphasized that when he boarded the Italian ship following the termination of negotiations with the four Palestinians, he asked the ship's captain if there were any casualties among the passengers or crew members and the captain said no. Abu al-'Abbas revealed that President Reagan's daughter was among the passengers on the Italian ship. He noted that had the four hijackers wanted to threaten the lives of the passengers, they would have taken control of the ship prior to its arrival in Alexandria, and prior to the disembarkment of the U.S. President's daughter, who they knew was aboard.

In his interview, Abu al-'Abbas pointed out that the objective of the four Palestinians was not to hijack the Italian liner or threaten the lives of the passengers. The Israeli port of Ashdod was their target; they intended to carry out a suicide operation inside the occupied territories. However, circumstances forced a change of plans when they were exposed on the ship's deck after it left Alexandria. This forced them to seize the ship.

Continuing, Abu al-'Abbas said that he was entrusted by the PLO to go to Egypt and negotiate with the four Palestinans and help end the issue of the Italian liner. He added thiat his mission was successful with the help of the Egyptian authorities, who made strenuous efforts to end the affairs.

The Palestinian official expressed his appreciation for the positive role that Egypt had played in ending the issue of the Italian liner and in preserving the lives of its crew and passengers. He also expressed his appreciation to the Italian authorities for allowing him and his companion Abu al-'Izz to leave Italy. He said that the Palestinians are very grateful to the Italian people and authorities for their support of the just Palestinian cause.

Radio Interview

JN141302 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Interview with Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas, identified here by his nom de guerre Abu al-'Abbas, by Monte Carlo radio reporter Nabil Darwish on 14 October 1985 in Belgrade -- recorded]

[Nabil Darwish] You are wanted by the United States. What is your answer to that?

[Muhammad 'Abbas] As far as the Americans are concerned, all strugglers are wanted men. We must say here that the U.S. charge against Abu al-'Abbas is part of the hostile U.S. stand against the Palestine question.

[Darwish] Abu al-'Abbas, let us suppose you obtained a visa to enter the United States. What would you do? Would you go to the United States? Would you ask for guarantees? Are you ready to appear before U.S. justice?

['Abbas] I am ready to leave for the United States immediately provided I obtain personal guarantees from President Reagan: First, guarantees for my personal safety; and second, guarantees for my complete right to speak on all issues, provided that all these issues are also made public. I mean by that, my right to the freedom to move, speak, and explain the Palestine question, including the issue of the cruise ship.

[Darwish] But are you ready to appear before U.S. justice?

['Abbas] To start with, I do not consider myself an accused man to appear before U.S. justice.

[Darwish] If you are told, as in Italy, that you are to appear as a witness, would you?

['Abbas] To be honest, I am ready to do anything that will help explain my people's cause.

[Darwish] Abu al-'Abbas, it was said right from the beginning that the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship are members of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF]. Is this true?

['Abbas] Actually, some of them are former members of the PLF. As you know, brother Nabil, the PLF experienced many crises after the departure from Beirut, just as the Palestinian revolution did. There were various groups. The Palestinian people were dispersed and the fighters were scattered everywhere. Some of these were in the PLF. They were part of the thousands of Palestinian fighters scattered everywhere in the world. So when these men announced their demands concerning the release of Samir Qintar, who is a member of the PLF, it became clear that they had some direct or indirect connection with the PLF. Their call for the release of Samir Qintar prompted brother Yasir 'Arafat to ask me personally to tackle the ship's issue. I acted on this basis to end this matter. We have indeed succeeded in ending it peacefully.

Further Interview

JN141924 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Oct

[Telephone interview with Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-'Abbas, by Monte Carlo reporter Nabil Darwish in Belgrade on 14 October -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Nabil Darwish] Abu al-'Abbas, one of the complications of the hijacking operation against the Italian cruise ship is that you personally are wanted by the United States. What is your comment on the U.S. demand?

[Muhammad 'Abbas] Before I answer this question I must point out that the United States has for the first time clearly defined its position regarding our issue. It is the principal enemy and it is the one which says beyond doubt that it is against the Palestinian people. It is quite clear that they are trying to exaggerate the subject of the ship.

[Darwish] But yesterday you said that you are ready to go to the United States.

['Abbas] Exactly.

[Darwish] Are you still ready to do so?

['Abbas] Certainly I am ready to go to the United States, but not according to President Reagan's wishes. We unequivocally reject the accusation, although by this accusation the U.S. President honors us because he has instituted himself as a direct enemy of the Palestinian people and the just Palestine question.

[Darwish] Abu al-'Abbas, how was the airliner you were taking from Cairo to Tunis diverted?

['Abbas] Over Greece, I think. We were suprised by warning shots around the plane. We looked out and saw four U.S. aircraft following us. They asked the captain of the plane to fly toward one of the [word indistinct] whose location we did not know. After about 1 hour we were ordered to land at a NATO base in Sicily. When the Egyptian captain tried to land, he was prevented from doing so by the Italian control tower and his identiy was requested. When the Italian or base authorities refused to allow our plane to land with the U.S. aircraft, a U.S. pilot intervened insolently and said: We are the U.S. force and we order you to allow us to land. The Italian officer then said: I have no orders.

[Darwish] Did you hear these exchanges?

['Abbas] Of course, because I was standing beside the captain. The Italian officer said he had no orders for landing, but the U.S. pilot replied: I order you to allow us to land at once; otherwise, we will land. This angered the Italian officer who said something in Italian which sounded like protest words. We were eventually allowed to land.

Two huge transport planes of the C-41 type advanced toward us and the Americans told us: You have to land and board this plane so that we can take you to the United States in order to put you on trial there. They wanted us and the Egyptian crew to land. The Italians interfered and a quarrel or a battle was about to break out between the Italians and Americans. The Italian officer protested this U.S. behavior and there was a long argument during which weapons were primed. In fact, the Italians were concerned about their dignigy, but they were apparently helpless. Finally, a compromise was reached between the Italians and Americans.

The Americans were withdrawn after they had threatened us and threatened me personally over the loudspeaker. The said: If you make a single move, we will destroy you. They also said that there are 500 tanks and 200 aircraft in the base and added that there was a nuclear weapon at the airport. They threatened to use aircraft, tanks, and nuclear weapons against a civilian airliner. This prompted the Italian officers to protest. Finally, some sort of a solution was reached. Part of the U.S. force around the plane withdrew and the [words indistinct] until the Egyptian negotiator reached some sort of solution 2 days or 2 days and a little more after the seizure of the airliner.

SFRY Rejects Extradition

LD141016 Kuwait KUNA in English 0915 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 14 (KUNA) -- A Palestinian official affirmed that Yugoslavia rejected a U.S. request to arrest leader of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) Muhammad 'Abbas (Abu 'Abbas), who was on the Egyptian airliner along with the four hijackers of the Italian ship, when American military aircraft hijacked the plane and forced it to land in Sicily.

Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) here Nimir Hamad told KUNA today that Yugoslavia informed Abu 'Abbas, currently in Belgrade, and the PLO office of the American official request and Yugoslavia's rejection of the request.

Yugoslav official sources affirmed that since Abu 'Abbas is an Executive Committee member of the PLO, which has a diplomatic status in Belgrade, then he has the right to enter and leave Yugoslavia freely.

The sources justified the Yugoslav rejection by saying that the PLO leader, who arrived here two days ago from Italy, did not participate in the seizure of the Italian ship, Achille Lauro, in the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, Abu 'Abbas told KUNA today that he is ready to go to Washington to clarify the details of the Italian ship's seizure and to explain the Palestinian cause to the American public opinion, if the U.S. Administration guaranteed his safety and freedom of movement.

He added that the American administration does not hesitate from distorting facts and accusing innocents of being saborteurs and terrorists, while it shamelessly practices terrorism against people and independent countries.

The Palestinian official accused the U.S. of practising terrorism against him when it hijacked theEgyptian airplane, carrying him from Egypt to Tunisia, and said he will leave to a European friendly country within 24 hours. Abu 'Abbas refused to name his destination.

Though the Yugoslav Government have not announced yet its official rejection of the American request, it is expected to issue a statement later today on the matter.

Departs SFRY For Aden

LD142015 Kuwait KUNA in English 1930 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Belgrade, Oct 14 (KUNA) -- Leader of the Palestine Liberation Front Muhammad al-'Abbas Monday left to Aden following a 36 hour stopover, a PLO representative here confirmed. The Palestinian leader, codenamed Abu 'Abbas, was member of the negotiations team which brought the hijack saga of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro to an end last week. He was also among the passengers of an Egypt air plane which was forced to land in Italy during a mid-air piracy operation carried out by U.S. Air Force [as received] jet fighters.

Last Saturday, the Palestinian leader, who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived here from Rome on a Yugoslav airlines plane accompanied by his aide Abu al-'Iz.

Abu al-'Abbas was offered a diplomatic treatment by the Yugoslav Government [words indistinct] yesterday turned down an American request to extradite him for trial in the U.S.